HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

Vampire Hunter D

4

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAIKO TAKAKI

DMP DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING™

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

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Volume 4

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY

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I'VE DONE IT.
I FIGURED IT OUT!
THIS WILL CHANGE THE WORLD...!
DAD ...?
...
...

HRHRHRNNN

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

Vampire Hunter D

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY

SAIKO TAKAKI

CLOP

CLOP

GRRR
GRRR
GRRR

THINK
EITHER WAY, YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
BLAM

I IMAGINE YOU CAN MANAGE ON YOUR OWN.
THAT GIRL'S THE ONLY SURVIVOR.
?
HOW'D YOU KNOW SHE'S ...?
THANKS FOR HELPIN' OUT...
BUT C'MON ...
NO NEED TO JUST TURN AND RIDE AWAY.
WELL YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT THERE'S A CRACK IN THEIR ATOMIC REACTOR'S SUPERHEATER. IT'S FULLA RADIATION IN THERE.
AHA, YOU SAW THE SLEEPING BAGS.
I HAPPENED BY A LITTLE TOO LATE ...
THAT'S RIGHT.
SHE NEEDS TO SEE A TOWN DOCTOR.
THE MEDICINE I'VE GOT WON'T CUT IT.
THE ZEMECKIS RENDEZ-VOUS POINT?
WHERE'RE YOU HEADED?
IT'S ALSO THE REASON THE FAMILY WENT OUTSIDE ...
WELL THAT'S CONVENIENT. LET'S ALL GO...
TREAT HER QUICKLY.

AH HELL— A SAND VIPER!
ROOSH
OF ALL THE TIMES ...
MAYBE SOMEBODY WAS MAKING TOO MUCH OF A RACKET TO EVEN NOTICE.
THERE WAS NOTHIN' HERE A MINUTE AGO...
YOU SAY SOME-THING?
.....
C'MON, DON'T JUST SIT AND WATCH, MR. FACE-ACHE.
THIS AIN'T GOOD...
IF YOU'VE GOT A DROP OF HUMAN BLOOD IN YOU, DO SOME-THING!

MESS THIS UP, AND THE ROPE'LL SINK...
...TOO—HEY!
SHFF!
THERE YOU GO.
TOSS THAT OVER.
?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHY ISN'T HE SINKING?
WHY THE HELL'S HE COMIN' HERE?
WHAT IS HE...?

GOOD, NOW WE...
!
JUST ...?!
LUNGE!!
.....
HEY MAN... JUST WHO ARE YOU...?

I FIGURED YOU WERE TOO GOOD-LOOKIN'...
AND ALL YOU DID WAS YANK...
YOU AIN'T JUST HUMAN, ARE YOU?
IT'S RARE ANYBODY GETS AWAY...
...FROM A SAND VIPER USING A TRACTOR, LET ALONE A CYBORG HORSE.
SMACK!
NOW I GET IT! YOU'RE A DHAMPIR ?!
THAT GOES FOR DHAMPIRS TOO, OF COURSE.
YOU COULD HANG WITH ME AND HAVE RED SKIN, OR EVEN GREEN, FOR ALL I CARE.
JUST DON'T STEER YOURS TRULY WRONG, THAT'S ALL.
BRMM
IT'S COOL.
MY MOTTO IS "KEEP AN OPEN MIND."

NAME'S JOHN M. BRASSELLI PLUTO VIII.
WE HAVEN'T INTRO-DUCED OUR-SELVES.
WOOPS.
D.
HUH ?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT MEANS TO LET US GO.
GOT IT? "JOHN M. BRASSELLI ..."
USE MY FULL NAME WHEN YOU CALL ME.
BUT DON'T GO ABBRE-VIATING MINE.
NICE NAME.
BRRR
BRRR

FLASH

DSSH

ヴォオオオ

WELL, AT LEAST WE'RE SAFE.
VVVNNNNN
HMM,
I DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE ANY MOBILE TOWNS WITH PROMETHEUS CANNONS LEFT.
SHIMMER

HONNNN
ゴゴゴゴゴ…
A MOBILE TOWN...
SO WE HAVE THEM TO THANK?
VRRRR...
ブブブブ

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ…

HONNNN

MOBILE TOWN

ピピピ
BEEP

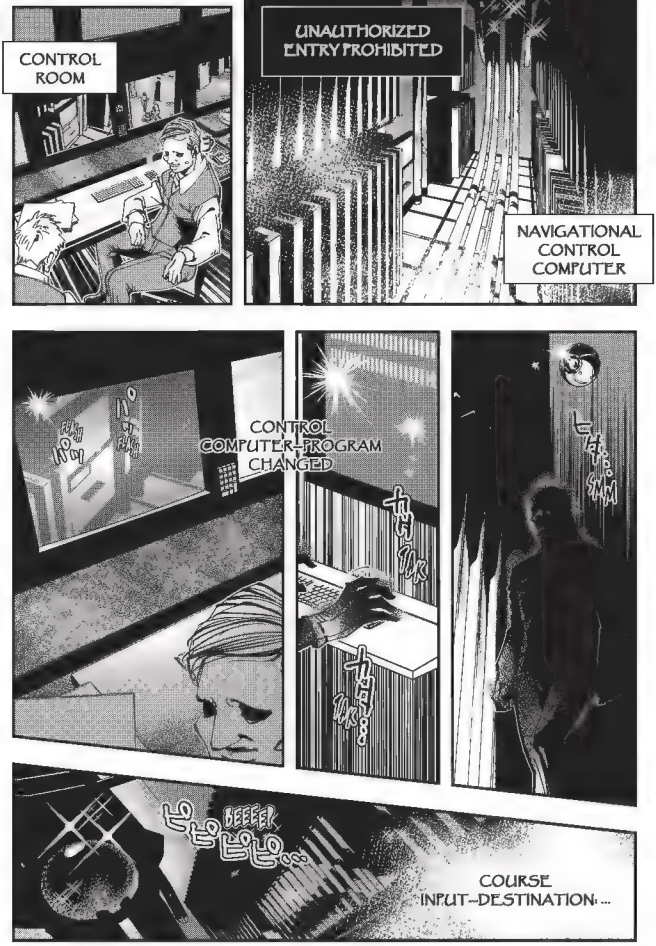
ピピピ
BEEP

ズズ…
ZMMM

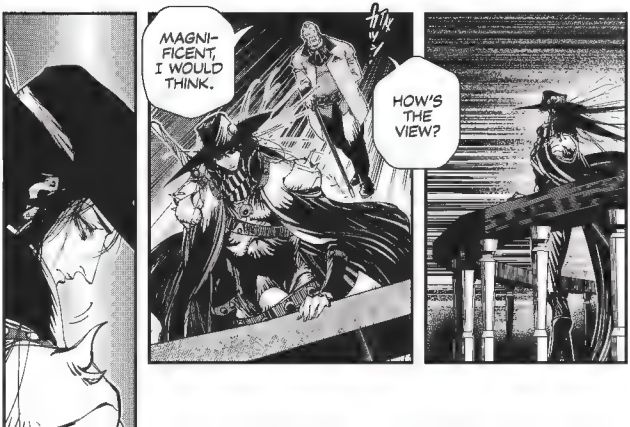
ALL NAVIGATIONAL MANAGEMENT IS COMPUTER-CONTROLLED.

A MIGRATING COMMUNITY, SUSPENDED ONE METER ABOVE THE GROUND.

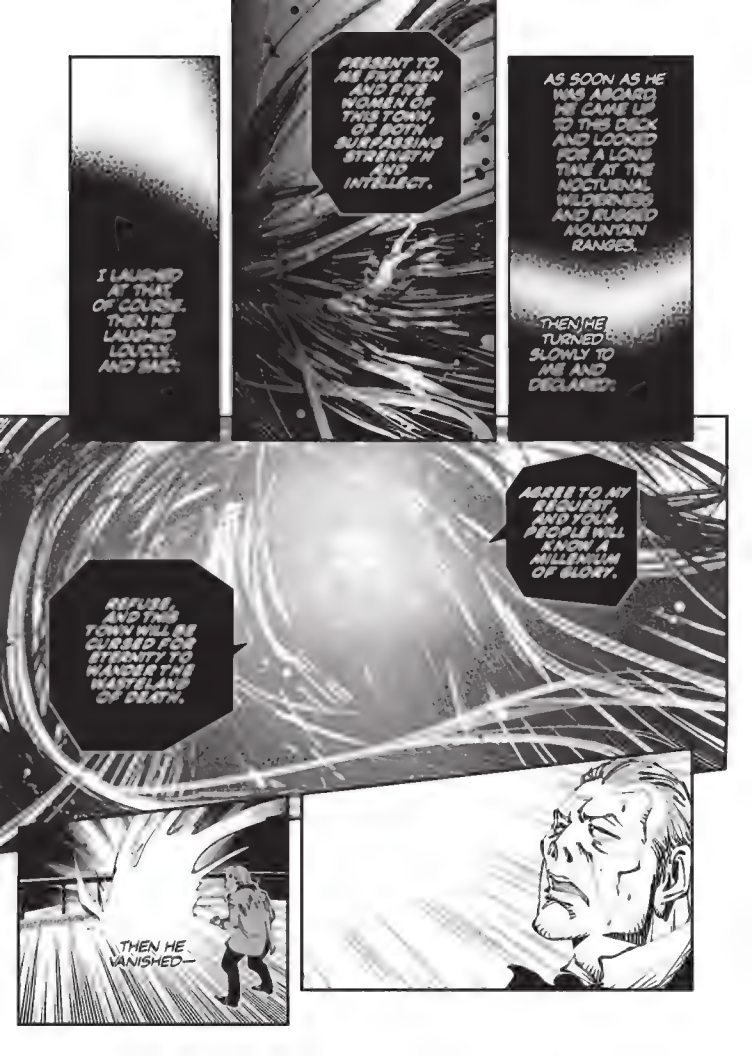
IT CAN SUSTAIN A CRUISING SPEED OF 20KPH, AND IS CAPABLE OF SCALING ANY MOUNTAIN RANGE OR CLIFF, PROVIDED THE INCLINE IS 60 DEGREES OR LESS.


CONTROL ROOM
UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY PROHIBITED
NAVIGATIONAL CONTROL COMPUTER
CONTROL COMPUTER—PROGRAM CHANGED
COURSE INPUT—DESTINATION:...
BEEEEEK

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
HONNNN
ゴオオォ
WOOOOO
オオオ…


MAGNI-
FICENT,
I WOULD
THINK.
HOW'S
THE
VIEW?

THE LAW OF THIS TOWN IS NOT TO LET STRANGERS ONBOARD, BUT THAT TIME, WE HAPPENED TO STOP...!!!
TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO—WHEN I LET THAT MAN ONBOARD ...
I NEVER IMAGINED A THING LIKE THIS WOULD EVER HAPPEN...
IT WAS THE WORST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE.
...FOR THERE HE WAS, STANDING AT THE FOOT OF THE GREAT NORTHERN MOUNTAINS.
HE HAD THIS DEEP, DARK GAZE.
HE LOOKED LIKE SOLID DARKNESS, FLOATING THERE IN THE SPOTLIGHTS.
IN FACT, HE LOOKED A LOT LIKE YOU.


I LAUGHED AT THAT, OF COURSE. THEN HE LAUGHED LOUDLY, AND SAID:
PRESENT TO ME FIVE MEN AND FIVE WOMEN OF THIS TOWN, OF BOTH SURPASSING STRENGTH AND INTELLECT.
AS SOON AS HE WAS ABOARD, HE CAME UP TO THIS DECK AND LOOKED FOR A LONG TIME AT THE NOCTURNAL WILDERNESS AND RUGGED MOUNTAIN RANGES.
THEN HE TURNED SLOWLY TO ME AND DECLARED:
AGREE TO MY REQUEST, AND YOUR PEOPLE WILL KNOW A MILLENNIUM OF GLORY.
REFUSE, AND THIS TOWN WILL BE CURSED FOR ETERNITY TO WANDER THE WASTELANDS OF DEATH.
THEN HE VANISHED—

I REALIZE THAT, NOW THAT THE DARKNESS HAS DESCENDED.
WHETHER THIS TOWN IS UNDER HIS CURSE OR NOT, IT WILL NEVER KNOW GLORY OR BLESSEDNESS AGAIN.
A TOUCH OF ANXIETY FILLED MY HEART, BUT NOTHING HAPPENED TO THE TOWN AFTERWARDS.
THE PAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS HAVEN'T BEEN ONE LONG STRETCH OF TRANQUILITY, BUT THIS I CAN SAY:
THEY WERE A TIME OF BLISS.
COME WITH ME.
I'LL SHOW YOU THE MEAT OF THE ISSUE.
THE ONE WHO SUMMONED YOU.
I'M MING, THE MAYOR...
NOW ...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, LAURA.
SHE'S NEARLY 18.

HAS SHE BEEN BITTEN SINCE THEN?
I FIRST NOTICED WHEN SHE COMPLAINED OF A SLIGHT COLD AND STARTED WEARING A SCARF...

SHE'S BEEN IN THIS STATE FOR A WEEK NOW.

I HAD GUARDS POSTED BOTH NIGHTS,
TWICE.
BUT SOMEHOW THEY FELL ASLEEP BOTH TIMES.

ALL OF OUR CITIZENS CAN WALK IN THE SUNLIGHT, THOUGH.
GA!
BUT YOU'VE INVESTI-GATED?
FIVE TIMES.
ONLY LAURA'S BLOOD WAS TAKEN.
NOBODY'S EVEN SEEN THE NOBLE.
I'LL INVESTIGATE MYSELF LATER. TONIGHT, I'LL STAY WITH HER.
NO, THANK YOU.
THANKS.
SHALL I PREPARE ANYTHING FOR YOU?
PARDON ME, BUT MIGHT I OFFER MY OPINION?

I REFUSE.
PARDON ME, DR. TSURUGI.
YOU HAVE SOME OBJEC-TION?
I FEEL THAT'S MY DUTY, AS A PHYSICIAN.
NO OBJECTION, BUT I WISH TO JOIN HIM— WATCHING OVER LAURA TONIGHT.
WH... WHY?!
ARE YOU WORRIED I'LL BE IN YOUR WAY?
I CAN LOOK AFTER MYSELF, THANK YOU.
EVEN IF I WERE BITTEN —
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU, THE WHOLE TOWN WOULD TURN AGAINST ME.
!
B-BUT I...
.....

I NEED YOU TO LEAVE ME WITH HER NOW.
ALRIGHT, THEN.
WHO-NAN
WHAT DID YOU...
...COME HERE FOR?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

DEFILED?
WHERE'S THE ONE WHO DEFILED YOU?
THERE AREN'T MANY AROUND WHO USE WORDS LIKE "DEFILE"...
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT JUST PASSING THROUGH.
ヌラ
I WANT TO BE DEFILED DAY IN AND DAY OUT,
JUST TO TASTE THIS ESCTASY.
WHO KNOWS? WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM?
WHEN WILL HE VISIT YOU?

THE SUN'S RISING.
—TWO RED EYES...
THEY JUST... COME CLOSER ...
IS HE FROM THIS TOWN?
I DON'T KNOW...
I DON'T KNOW...
WHO ASSAULTED YOU?
SWOOP
FWOOMP

WHEN WERE YOU ATTACKED?
THREE WEEKS AGO... AN ABANDONED HOUSE... AT THE PARK...
WHEN WILL HE COME NEXT?
FUUU!!
...TONIGHT...
THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE.
AH... AHH... ...TO...
AND THAT'S ALL SHE KNOWS, TOO.
I GUESS WE WILL HAVE TO ASK "HIM".

THIS MUST BE THE HOUSE WHERE SHE WAS ATTACKED ...
KREE
O

WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
— ANSWER ME.
LOOM
ぬうっ
HA!

ヒュン!
ガン!
ガン!
ユラ…
スゥ…
ジュワ…
ズゥ…
ズゥ…

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A GUY WHO CAN PASS THROUGH WALLS.
IS HE FROM THIS TOWN? MAYBE NOT...
TAK-TAK
WHAT WAS THAT THING?
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE AFTEREFFECT OF MOLECULAR INTANGIBILITY.
HUH...
THIS LOOKS LIKE IT WAS SOME KIND OF LABORATORY ...
.....

ソロ
SHFFT
ソロ...
SHFFT
I HEAR YOU'RE A DHAM-PIR.
HEY PAL—
スイッ
SHFFT

SHUDDER

I CAN'T HELP IT IF THE MAYOR INVITED YOU TO HIS HOUSE...
BUT THIS TOWN'S FOR PURE BREED HUMANS ONLY.
WE DON'T WANT NO NOBILITY HALFBREED WANDERIN' AROUND.
THERE'S A NOBLE IN THIS TOWN...
OR AT LEAST A SERVANT OF ONE.

IT COULD BE YOUR FAMILY WHO'S ATTACKED NEXT.
Y-YEAH, WELL WE'D DEAL WITH THAT OURSELVES!
WE DON'T NEED HELP FROM NO NOBILITY KIN!
J-JUST A GOD-DAMN MINUTE!
HYNN

AWAH ?!
THM
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, DOC?!

HE'S A GUEST OF THE MAYOR!
YOU SHOULD BE HELPING HIM FIND THE NOBLE, NOT DRIVING HIM AWAY.
RIGHT, MR. BERG?
W-WELL, I'D AGREE WITH YOU...
I MEAN, SURE, IF HE WAS JUST A HUNTER...
BUT HE'S A DHAMPIR, SO...
—THEY SAY DHAMPIRS DO IT TOO, YOU KNOW.
THEY GET THIRSTY AND DRINK THEIR CLIENT'S BLOOD...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE GOT NO BASIS FOR OUR ARGUMENT.
A DHAMPIR GOT HALF THE PEOPLE OF PEAMOND...
THAT'S AN EXCEPTION AMONG EXCEP-TIONS!
DHAMPIRS DRINKING ON THE JOB IS A TRAGEDY,
BUT IT ONLY HAPPENS AT A RATE OF ONE TWENTY THOUSANDTH OF A PERCENT!

HEY DOC-TOR.
YOU AREN'T FROM THIS TOWN ORIGINALLY, EITHER.
OUTSIDERS GOTTA STICK TOGETHER, HUH?
I BET THAT'S WHY YOU'RE STICKIN' UP FOR HIM!
RIGHT, FOLKS?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!!
AND WE MIGHT END UP BEIN' THAT ONE IN TWENTY THOUSAND.
OR— HAVE YOU TWO BEEN IN CAHOOTS FROM THE START?
YOU GONNA KEEP THOSE GLOVES ON FOR THIS?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO LISTEN.
CONROY.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN.

JUST STAND BACK AND WATCH.
YOU NEEDN'T DO THIS.
IT WAS MY FIGHT, ORIGINALLY.
BUT NOW, IT'S MINE.
SHIT, MAN!
I WON'T GO EASY JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE A DOCTOR!
LUNGE

VNN!
VNN!
SHFF
THMP
THMP
THMP
UGH...

HE'LL BE DOWN FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.

YOUR SKILLS ARE IMPRESSIVE.
GO HOME, EVERYONE.
NOW, ENOUGH OF THIS VIOLENT INSTIGATION.
I REMEMBER SEEING THAT ART IN THE EAST, LONG AGO.
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
IT'S CALLED KARATE.
MY GRANDFATHER TAUGHT IT TO ME.
— HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
NO...
NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

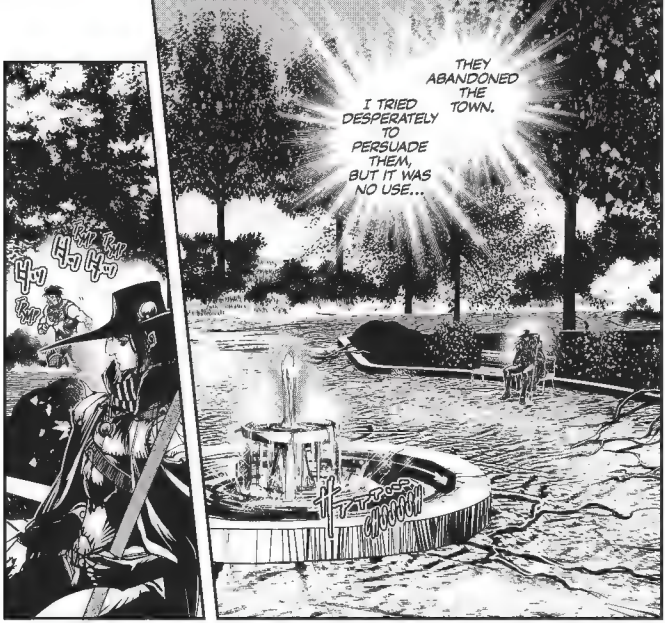
I BELIEVE I MENTIONED, I'M A CIRCUIT DOCTOR.
I'VE HEARD MANY STORIES ABOUT YOU FROM ALL OVER THE FRONTIER.
YOU WENT INSIDE WITHOUT KNOWING?
!
WHO USED TO LIVE IN THIS ABANDONED HOUSE?
IT BELONGS TO LORI KNIGHT.
SHE'S THE GIRL YOU SAVED LAST NIGHT!

SHE'S CURRENTLY UNDERGOING RADIOACTIVITY REMOVAL TREATMENT.
AT THIS POINT, HER LIFE ISN'T IN DANGER.
THERE WAS LEVEL 3 RADIATION CONTAMINATION TO HER SPEECH CENTER AND SENSE OF HEARING.
...SHE'LL PROBABLY NEVER BE ABLE TO SPEAK OR HEAR AGAIN.

THIS GIRL'S BEEN INJURED BOTH IN BODY AND SPIRIT.
I WANT YOU TO AVOID ANY SHOCKING QUESTIONS.
CAN SHE CONVERSE THROUGH WRITING?
SHE'S BEEN INFORMED OF ALL THIS, ALREADY.
HOW OLD IS SHE?
17.
FOR BRIEF PERIODS ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR RESCUING ME.

SHAKE
SHAKE
THERE'S SOMEBODY IN YOUR HOUSE.
SLIDE
HAS ANYTHING STRANGE EVER HAPPENED, THERE?
DO YOU KNOW THE PARTICULARS OF YOUR FATHER'S EXPERIMENTS?
THIS WILL CHANGE THE WORLD...
AHH
SHAKE

PLEASE LEAVE. NOW!
SHAKE!
SHAKE!
OH NO!
GRAB
THE KNIGHT FAMILY?
THEY'RE CHEMISTS WHO LEFT THE TOWN TWO MONTHS AGO.
I HEAR THEY'RE DEAD, THOUGH.
NOBODY KNOWS THE DETAILS OF THEIR EXPERIMENTS.
THEIR HOUSE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SEALED UP AS THE INVESTIGATION WAS OVER.


THEY ABANDONED THE TOWN.
I TRIED DESPERATELY TO PERSUADE THEM, BUT IT WAS NO USE...
THUMP THUMP
THUMP

MAN, WHAT A GRUMPY TOWN THIS IS.
THUMP

HEY, STUD. WHAT'S SHAKIN'?

I EVEN TOLD 'EM THEY WERE FOR LORI.
I SAID THEY'RE FOR A HOSPITAL VISIT— BUT STILL NO DICE.
HOW'D YOU GET THOSE FLOWERS ?
I HEARD THERE'S THIS ARTIFICIAL FLOWER GARDEN, BUT I GET THERE, AND THEY DON'T SELL TO OUTSIDERS.
THERE AIN'T A SINGLE DAMN FLORIST TO BE FOUND.
WELL, UH—
BUT YEAH, I'M PISSED.
I DON'T IMAGINE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME.
THAT'S TRUE ENOUGH.
EH, OH WELL.
THERE'S SOME-THING I WANT TO ASK YOU.
LIKE WHAT?

I WENT INTO A HOUSE EARLIER.
SOME-THING STRANGE WAS THERE.
WAS THAT YOU?
HUHH?
IT SEEMS INCONCEIVABLE THAT ANYONE FROM TOWN WOULD BREAK INTO THAT HOUSE AT THIS POINT.
YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY NON-RESIDENTS.
HAH-HAH-HAHHH!
SORRY, IT WASN'T ME.
...YOU THINK I'D JUST SAY "YES SIRREE." ?
IF IT WAS ME...

I'D HAVE TO AGREE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU SEEM MORE THE TYPE TO LEAVE THAN STAY.
BUT HEY.
THIS PLACE IS KINDA LIKE PARADISE COMPARED TO THE OUTSIDE.
YOU CAN BUY MOST THINGS HERE, IF YOU PONY UP.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO DUKE IT OUT WITH THE NOBILITY'S NASTY CRONIES.
SO, UNTIL THEY KICK ME OUT...
THERE HE IS!
OVER HERE!
HA HA HA
SCOUT
HERO
SHIP
HERO

H-HE'S THE ONE! FLOWER THIEF!
I JUST DIDN'T PUT ANY MONEY DOWN.
NO, SILLY.
YOU STOLE THOSE FLOWERS?
THEY'RE ON LOAN.
...A SINGLE FLOWER IN THIS TOWN?! YOU ROTTEN SNEAK-THIEF!
D'YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH EFFORT IT TAKES TO GROW...
COME HERE!
EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONE FLOWER, A THIEF'S GOTTA GET WHAT'S COMING TO HIM!
WE'RE TAKING YOU TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE!
THEN WE'LL DRAG YOU THERE!
YEAH, IF YOU SAY SO.
NO CAN DO.
HEH.

ハー
アア
アアー
ザザザザザ
DON'T JUST STARE— COME AND GET SOME!
ハイ!
ぐぐぐ
ボキ
ボキ
SO, WHO'S GONNA BE FIRST...?
LUNGE
ASSHOLE!!

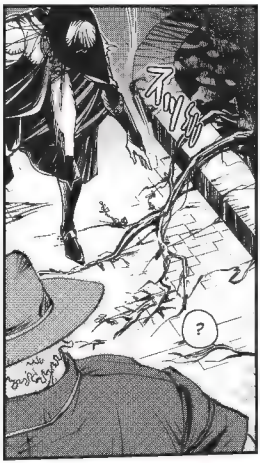
I'LL TAKE ALL THREE OF YOU AT ONCE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
OKAY, NEXT!
HUL6 ...?!
?!
WHAT?!

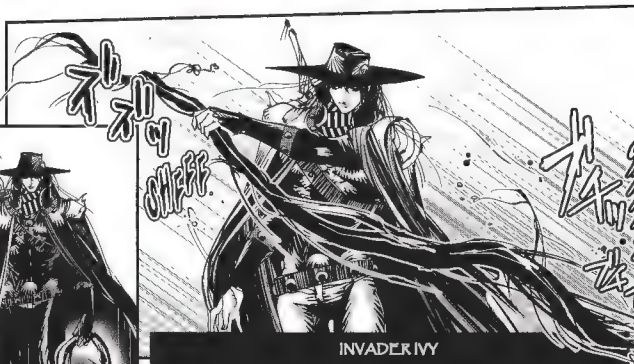
BAS-
TARD
!
?!
TMP!

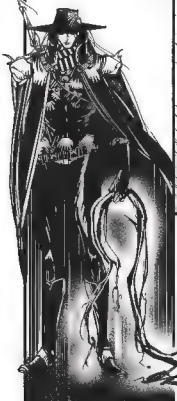
THINK I'M FASTER THAN THAT SWORD OF YOURS?
HOW 'BOUT THAT?
NOW THEN.
I'M GONNA GO VISIT OUR HOSPITAL-IZED FRIEND.
YOU WANNA COME ALONG?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING. YOU SHOULD TRY TO BE MORE SOCIABLE.
NO.
YOU CAN HANDLE IT.

WOMEN THESE DAYS TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE A MAN.
HE HE HE—
SHFF
...SO YOU'RE D, HUH...?
CLICK

I'M SHERIFF HUTTON.
MY JOB'S TO PROTECT THE TOWNSPEOPLE FROM DANGEROUS OUTSIDERS.
I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE MAYOR'S GUEST.
I'LL BE THE ONE WHO FINDS YOUR KIN.
AND WHEN I DO I'LL DRIVE A STAKE RIGHT THROUGH HIM.
AS SHERIFF, I DON'T CARE FOR THE MAYOR...
...IGNORING ME AND CALLING IN A PUNK LIKE YOU.







INVADER IVY

–A PLANT THAT'S INFESTED EVERYWHERE FROM THE COLDER REGIONS TO THE GREENER BELTS. IT HAS STRONG POWERS OF PROPAGATION, AND IF EVEN A SMALL FRAGMENT OF ROOT IS LEFT BEHIND, IT TAKES THREE DAYS TO RESPROUT, AND LESS THAN THREE WEEKS TO REACH MATURITY. EXTERMINATING THIS WEED IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

YOU TOOK PART IN INVESTIGATING THE KNIGHT HOUSE?
!

YOU SON OF A BITCH!
BLAM
BLAM

WHAAAT ?
WHAT DID YOU FIND THERE?

ANSWER ME.

WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
VSHING
?!
CHOK

GO...
GO SCREW YOUR-SELF...
ANSWER ME.
?!
THEN YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.
WHY DID THE KNIGHT FAMILY LEAVE TOWN?
LEER

WHEN DID THIS BEGIN?
ABOUT... 200 YEARS AGO.
.....
ZHAAA
I DON'T KNOW WHY... THE OFFICIAL WORD IS... LEAVE THAT FAMILY ALONE...
IT WAS LIKE THAT FOR THE SHERIFF BEFORE ME, TOO.
AND BEFORE HIM...
THE MAYOR?
I DON'T... KNOW ANY DETAILS ABOUT THEM...
THAT FAMILY... WAS DOING WEIRD EXPERI-MENTS...
TAPP
.....
WELL... THE MAYOR WAS STOPPING ME.
YOU WERE AWARE OF THIS, YET DID NOTHING?

BUT BY THE NEXT DAY... THEY'D GONE... THEY MELTED THE WALL... AND RAN OFF...
...THEY CHOSE... TO RUN OFF.
WAS THE KNIGHT FAMILY DRIVEN OUT, OR DID THEY ABANDON THE TOWN?
...THREW THEM INTO A JAIL CELL, ON THE MAYOR'S ORDERS...
THAT NIGHT, I...
WE'LL MEET AGAIN AT SOME POINT.
FLAP
HIS STORY SMELLS KIND OF FISHY.
.....

THERE'S FLESH-EATIN' BIRDS ATTACKIN'!

DAMN THINGS'RE BACK!

AGHHH

BLAM

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

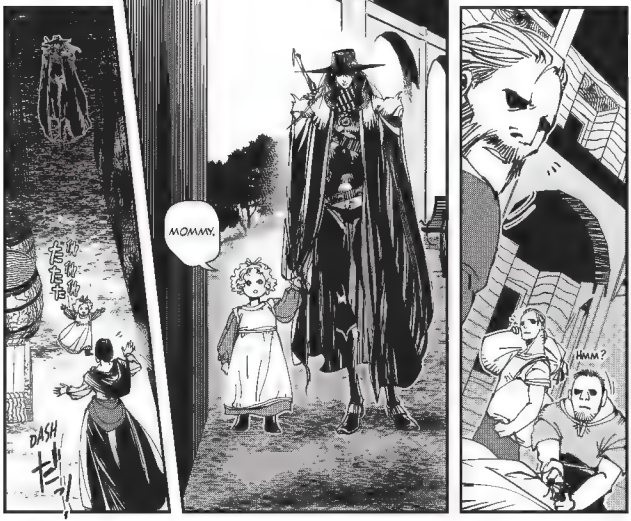
ギエエエ

FLAP
FLAP
MMORRRGH
WOOSH

WHOOO

GURA!
ﾊﾞｷｯ
ﾊﾞｷﾊﾞｷ
ﾄﾞｺﾞｫｫｫ

わん!
YIEA
わん!
YIEA
ガブッ
ガブッ
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE WE HAD A FEAST.
ムシャムシャ
CARRY THE FEATHERS AND BONES TO THE FACTORIES!
HEY, DON'T WASTE ANY OF THE BLOOD.
GATHER IT UP.
HAS ANYONE SEEN MY LITTLE GIRL?
NOT SURE.
HAS ANYBODY SEEN MY DAUGH—
AH!


MOMMY.
HMM?
DASH
SQUEEZE
HE'S A DHAMPIR, AFTER ALL.
HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING STRANGE TO YOU, DID HE?
SQUEEZE

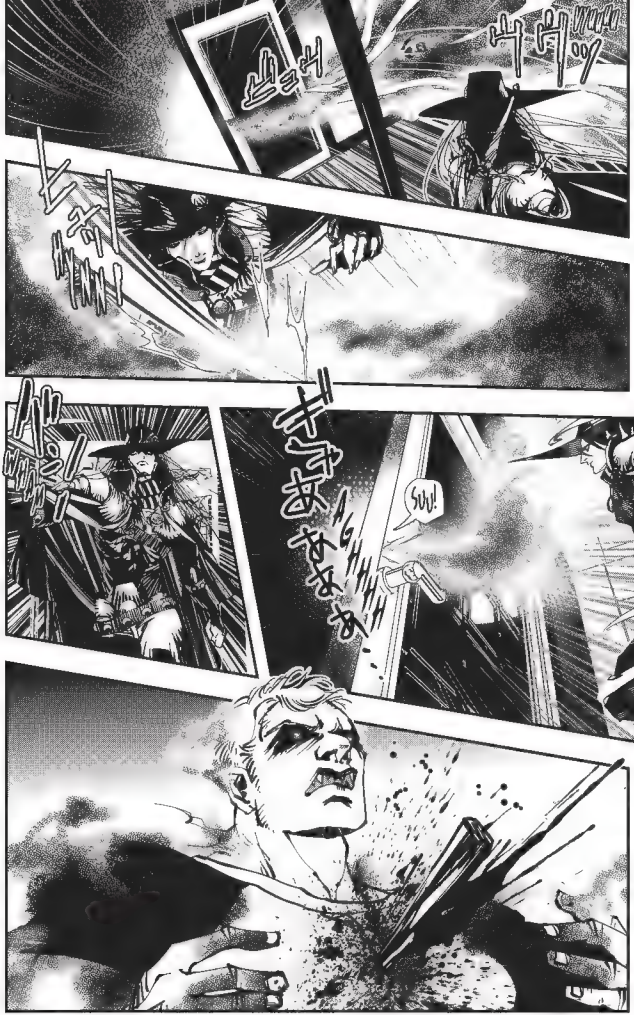
NO WAY!
NOTHING CAME DOWN IN THAT PARK.
BUT IT'S TRUE.
A BIRD GRABBED ME IN THE PARK...
HE RESCUED ME...
HE SAVED ME...
.....

I'M COMING IN.
DON'T. A HUNTER'S HERE.
WHO IS IT?
I AM NOT AFRAID OF HIS KIND.

JUST LIKE THE ONES BEFORE HIM.
THAT'LL KEEP HIM ASLEEP.
UNHH, HURRY.
HURRY, COME TO ME...
HAHHHH
I KNOW.
IF I CAN'T HAVE YOUR KISS— I'LL, I'LL...

ARE THERE ANY OTHERS OF YOUR KIND AROUND?
BUT FIRST, TELL ME YOUR NAME.
MY GAZE DIDN'T WORK ON YOU?!
WH-WHAT ...?!
ARE YOU ALONE?
NO...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ANSWER ME.

HOW MANY OTHERS ARE THERE?
ONE.
WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES?
LEAP
SWA
スッ…
……


ドドドド
ドドドド
ドドドド

……

あうぅ…
ゴロッ
ズズズ…

WHAT IN BLAZES— ARE YOU CERTAIN?
I AM.
HE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE LYING.
YOU MEAN THERE'S ANOTHER NOBLE?!
SO, YOU KILLED THE ONE WHO ATTACKED LAURA, DOCTOR?
BUT, HOW DID YOU...?
IT WAS A COINCI-DENCE.
I GOT WORRIED, SNUCK IN, AND HAPPENED UPON HIM...
LAURA HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL, THEN?
YES, SIR.
I PANICKED, AND STABBED HIM WITHOUT THINKING.
CRUNCH

DEAR ME...
IT'S ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER.
THIS TOWN OF OURS— IMPEN-ETRABLE FROM THE OUTSIDE...
YET NOW IT SEEMS THERE'RE TWO FILTHY FREAKS ONBOARD.
IT'D BE BEST NOT TO SPREAD WORD THAT ONE WAS DESTROYED.
.....

THERE AIN'T A DROP OF BLOOD LEFT IN HIM.
YOUR BUDDY SUCKED HIM DRY AND RAN OFF.

IT'S TRUE THAT THERE'S NO BLOOD PRESENT IN THE BODY.
BUT THERE IS NO SIGN ANYWHERE OF A BITE.
JUST KEEP LOOKIN'.
IT DOESN'T LOOK THAT WAY.
HIS CONDI-TION IS SIMILAR ...
IT MIGHT ...
BE SOME NEW KIND OF DISEASE.
BUT NO NOBLE DID THIS.
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE WOUND TO BE FOUND.
NOR DID ANY OF THEIR VICTIMS.
DISEASE ...?

DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION, WE MIGHT SOON BE IN NEED OF A VACCINE.
SHF
I'M NOT SURE.
WE'LL NEED TO HAVE DOCTOR TSURUGI PERFORM A QUICK ANALYSIS.

PLEASE... PLEASE COME SEE ME AGAIN.

GRIN
SHI
ZMMM
SO.
CAN YOU UNDER-STAND ME?
?!
EVEN A GIRL WITH NO VOICE CAN DO IT.
WE CAN COMMUNICATE OUR WILL TO EACH OTHER WITHOUT SPEAKING.
THIS IS CALLED TELE-PATHY.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN HOW?
DON'T BE SO STARTLED.

I DON'T MIND TEACHING YOU...
BUT I ALSO NEED YOU TO ANSWER A QUESTION.
WILL YOU ANSWER ME?
ニヤッ
ニヤッ
YOUR FAMILY WAS SUPPOSEDLY DOING SOME KIND OF RESEARCH.
—NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK IT.
THINK IT.
ITS SECRET IS HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN YOUR HOUSE.
TELL ME WHERE.

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I DON'T KNOW.
REMEMBER!
ANSWER ME!
GASP
HUH
HUH
HUH
YOUR FATHER WAS OBSESSED WITH FORBIDDEN EXPERIMENTS!
AND HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS EVER SUCCESSFUL WITH THEM!

ALL THE AUTOPSY SHOWED ME WAS—HE DIED OF SUDDEN AND MASSIVE BLOOD LOSS.
HONAAAAA
I LOOKED HIM OVER FROM HEAD TO TOE...
CHEEP
CHEEP
...BESIDES A FEW SCRATCHES, THERE WERE NO WOUNDS.
HE'LL WAKE BACK UP WHEN THE SUN SETS.

SIFF SIFF
SIFF
KLUNK

THOK
I IMAGINE YOU'RE AWARE OF WHO IT WAS THAT MADE YOU THIS WAY.
NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK ON YOUR FEET...
TELL ME.
YOU HAVE TO BE DESTROYED ...
BUT FIRST, YOU CAN LEAVE SOME PARTING WORDS FOR THE WORLD OF DAY.

SHLP
SHNK
WELL?
PRRRR.
THAT'S A STRANGE POWER YOU HAVE...
BUT THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD.

WHOOP
WRAP!
I TOOK CARE OF HIM.
COME ON OUT.
SWISH
THUD
HEH, THANKS.
SWISH

I FIGURED HE'D COME BACK TO LIFE, SO I WAS WAITING HERE FOR IT.
TO WHAT END?
NONNNE AT ALL.
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?
PART-NER. DON'T BE THAT WAY,
BY THE WAY...
ARE YOU GONNA TAKE HIM BACK AND GET HIM TO CONFESS?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
SURE THING.
FINE, BUT STAY OUT OF MY WAY.

.....
HE IS A VAMPIRE, YOU KNOW.
YOU THINK HE'LL JUST PLAY ALONG?
C'MON. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I'LL GET WHAT-EVER INFO YOU WANT.
I CAN GET HIM TO TELL YOU EVERY-THING.
NOW, JUST WATCH.
WELCOME TO MY HIDEOUT.

WOW, IT'S COLD IN HERE.
THIS GUY'S HEAD AND BODY ARE LIKE A WINTER WONDERLAND.
SHIVER
HOW ABOUT THIS, HUH?
GRK
AHHH
ACCORDING TO HIM, THE ONE WHO MADE HIM A VAMPIRE WAS—
THE UPSIDE IS, I KNOW EVERYTHING HE'S THINKING.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT REALLY COLD OUT FRONT OF THAT FACTORY, HE COLLAPSED, AND THAT'S ALL.
ISN'T THAT SOME-THING.
HUH, NO-BODY.

SO THE DISEASE IS CONTAGIOUS.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT I KNOW IS, HE REALLY CRAVES BLOOD.
THAT'S EVERYTHING.
HNN ...?
KACHA
.....

むぅ… HMM
...I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT ON EARTH WAS BEING RESEARCHED IN THAT HOUSE?
ONE MORE.
ANY MORE QUES-TIONS ?
YOU'RE THE MAN, D.
I WANTED TO SCARE YOU, BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN FLINCH.
HEH
HAHA, SORRY.
.....
BACK TO SQUARE ONE, HUH?
THE KNOWLEDGE ITSELF MIGHT BE THERE, BUT IT'S SURROUNDED BY A FOG.
SO, NO ANSWER.
HM?
YOU SAY SOME-THING?
GUESS WE COULDN'T COUNT ON NOBLE MEMORY TRANS-FERRENCE.

IF WE'RE DONE, I NEED TO RETURN HIM TO HIS GRAVE.
HURRY AND LEAVE THE BODY.
FLAP FLAP
HEFT
ヒョイッ
!
NO.
HEY, WHAT GIVES?!
WHAT A SELF-CENTERED JERK YOU ARE!
IT TAKES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PREP TO GO FROM BODY TO BODY.
ムクッ!
OHH, I FEEL SICK...

IT'S MAGNETIC STORM PASS!
FLASH
WHOMMM
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HEADED SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST!
WHY ISN'T THE ALARM SOUND-ING?!

NEVER MIND THAT! OUR COURSE SHOULDN'T TAKE US ANYWHERE LIKE THIS!
WHAT'S UP WITH THE COURSE CONTROL COMPUTER ?!
NO-THING'S WRONG WITH IT!
BUT, WE'RE WAY OFF COURSE!
YEAH, BUT WHO?! WHEN ?!
SOMEBODY MUST HAVE OVER-WRITTEN THE PROGRAM!

FLASH!
EVERY-BODY, FIND SHELTER!
HURRY!
WHOMM
AUGHHH!!
FSSSSH

MUST HAVE BLOOD...
HAHH
LOOK AT THAT GUY...
BLOOD ...
STAGGER
DI
SLUMP
KRAK!
FLESH

ヒュン
HYNN
キッ
SLASH
プシュ
FSSSH
プシュー...
ピッ
SNATCH
うがあ
あぁ
GRAHHHH
のそっ
UMMR

SHHH
SNAP
あぁう…
ムムム…
AHHHH
WHIRL
HE WAS A VICTIM— OR RATHER, AN INFECTED —?!
……

NAVIGATIONAL CONTROL ROOM! HOW LONG UNTIL WE GET THROUGH THE MAGNETIC STORM?

TIME UN-CERTAIN!

BASED ON KNOWN DATA— 5 MIN:19.6 SEC AT OUR PRESENT SPEED!

FLASH

IT'S IN THE DANGER ZONE!

DANGER, DANGER, DANGER ...!

NUCLEAR REACTOR #1'S ENERGY LEVEL IS 52% OVER CAPACITY!

REACTOR #3--69%!

RECATOR #2--57%!

IT'S RED-LINING!

WHOMMMM

BOOM

MAKE OUR ESCAPE OUR TOP PRIORITY!

YES, SIR!

IT'S IN-SANE!

I'M AWARE OF THAT.

BUT... THAT WILL BLOW THE REACTOR!

KEEP ONLY REACTOR #1 RUNNING!

INCREASE CRUISING SPEED TO 40KPH!

THE REACTORS WON'T HOLD!

CHONG

CHONG

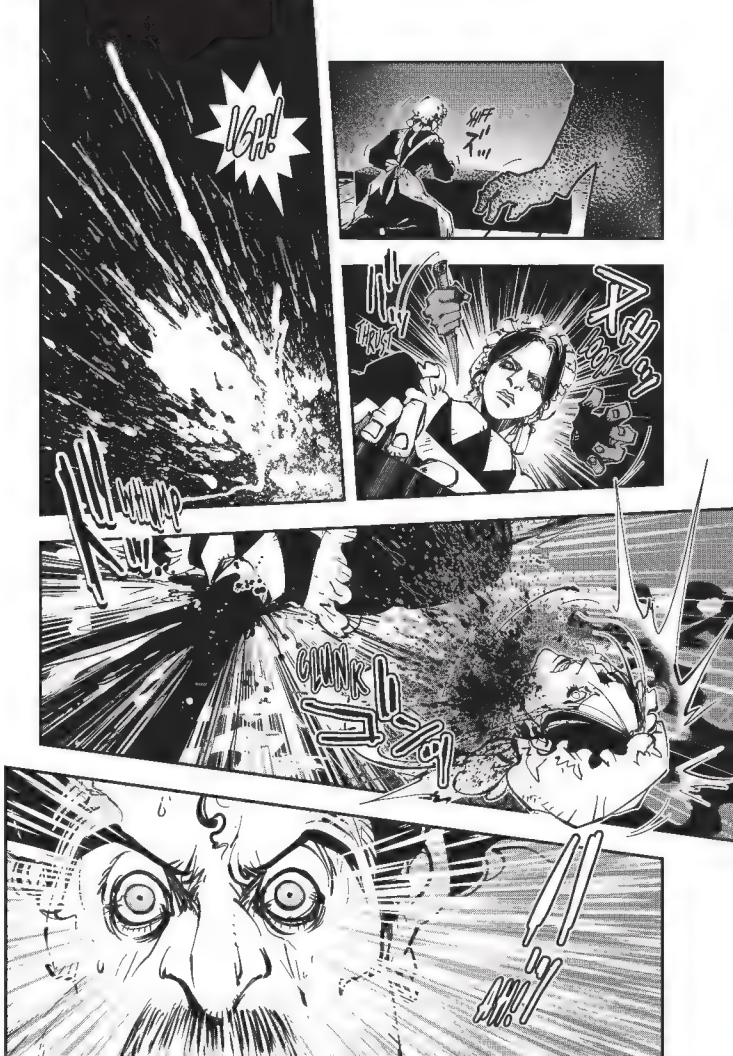
KRAK
KRRRRAK
MHOMMM
OMMMM
TUG

SO WE CAN'T CORRECT THE PROGRAM?!
NO SIR, WE CAN'T!
SWITCH OVER TO MANUAL CONTROL!
MANUAL CONTROLS WERE REMOVED FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO!
WHERE THE HELL...?
WHO DID THIS? AND WHERE'S HE TAKING THE TOWN?

WE'RE AT THE EDGE OF THE MAGNETIC BELT!
BREAK AWAY AT FULL SPEED!
WE'RE OUT OF IT!
ZHUMM
ROHHH!

ごそごそ
CONSIDERING HOW SHE WAS TOLD NOT TO GO INTO THE CELLAR WITHOUT PERMISSION...
I FIGURED THERE'D BE MORE TO SEE THAN THIS.
STILL, THOUGH, THERE'S ANOTHER VAMPIRE, HUH?
—AND THEY'RE MAKING IT LOOK LIKE THE DAUGHTER HASN'T RECOVERED YET...
THAT MUST BE D'S PLAN.
HRN!
WHICH MEANS—
ACCORDING TO NELL'S MEMORY, SHE THINKS SHE'S HEARD STRANGE VOICES AND GEARS TURNING.

OH!
CREEEEEEK
CREAK
KISH
GONG
WUNNNG
GOOD THING IT'S STILL DAYTIME.
TAK
WHO'S INSIDE ...?
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THE MAYOR OF ALL PEOPLE KEEPS A MONSTER LIKE THIS AS A PET.
BUT WOW.


Ugh!
SHFF
Ugh!
CHUNK
CHUNK

YOU'RE ALIVE ?!
BUT, YOU WEREN'T BREATHING ...!
WHOA!
WAH!
I AIN'T ON DISPLAY HERE!
YOU DAMN IDIOTS !
FEH!
IGNO-RANCE IS BLISS.
YOU PEOPLE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT CREEPY SHIT YOUR LEADER'S KEEPIN' AS A PET...

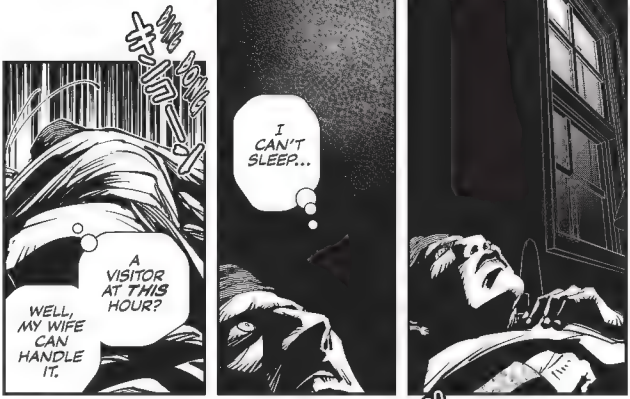
LINE UP SINGLE FILE.
NO PUSH-ING.
OKAY— IT'S JUST MINOR RADIATION POISONING. YOU'LL BE FINE.
PICK UP YOUR MEDICINE OVER THERE.
NEEEXT ...

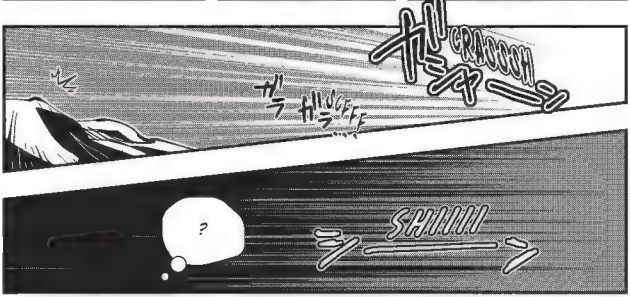
WHICH DO YOU WANT FIRST?
I'VE PREPARED SOME SOIL.
DON'T ASK SILLY QUESTIONS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT'S FIRST-- NOTHING'S TASTED GOOD LATELY ANYWAY.
CHOMP
I'M THE ONE WHO DOES THE EATING, YOU KNOW.
HOW ABOUT YOU HURRY UP?
OHOH, I GET A NUCLEAR REACTOR TODAY?
THAT STUFF'S THE WORST.
NO ALCOHOL LAMPS OR DRIED WEREWOLF DUNG, THANKS.
NOW THAT LOOKS TASTY.

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE CORPSE TO WAKE UP.
HMPH, THEN JUST PUT IT BACK TO SLEEP.
WATER OR FIRE?
HMPH, MAKE IT EARTH.
TASTES BAD.
IT WASN'T GIVEN LIFE BY THE PLANET.
THIS SOIL HASN'T KNOWN PROSPERITY AND DECLINE; BIRTH, DEATH, AND REBIRTH.
YOU WON'T GET VERY GOOD RESULTS, FEEDING ME STUFF LIKE THIS.
PLUNK
UGHH-- YOU DOLT!
FIRE COMES NEXT!

GUH! THAT'S ENOUGH.

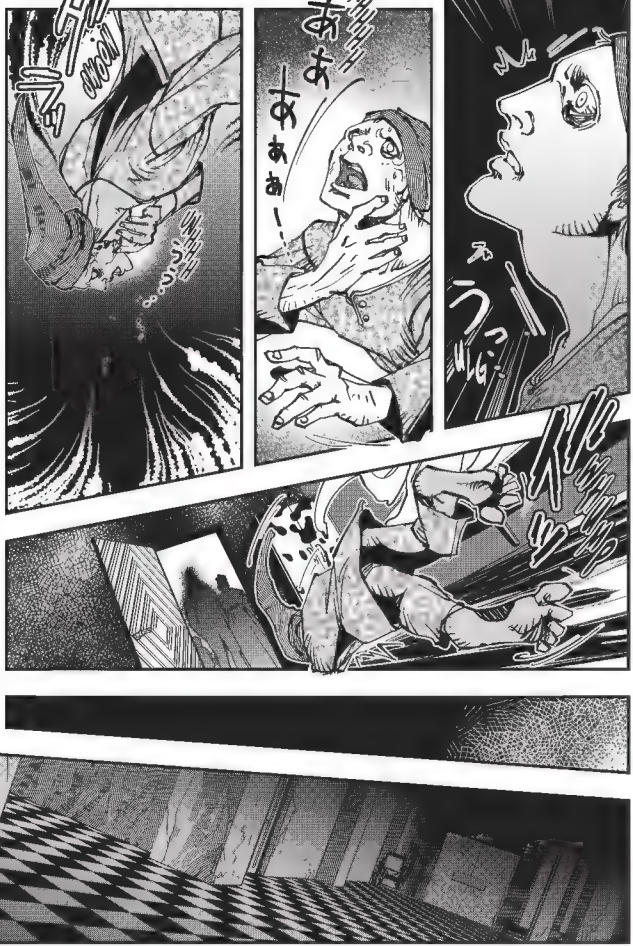
FEEL BETTER?
BETTER THAN LAST NIGHT, I GUESS.
EH, MORE OR LESS.
NOW, TIME TO ANALYZE.
I'M HOME...
THEY GAVE ME A THREE HOUR BREAK.
I'M TAKING A NAP.. THEN GOING BACK TO NAVIGATIONAL CONTROL ...


A VISITOR AT THIS HOUR?
WELL, MY WIFE CAN HANDLE IT.
I CAN'T SLEEP...


CRUCCH
SHHHH
?

SHE WENT IN THE BOYS' BEDROOM ...

キャッ
EEK!
?!
.....
BTHUMP
BTHUMP
ドン
ドン
ニャ
NK
ニャ
NK
WHAM!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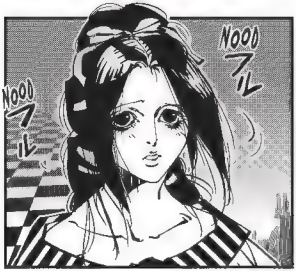
あぁぁ！！

ぬぅぅぅぅっ
WHAM!
ぺちっ
ぺちっ
ドゴッ

ドドド
ズズズ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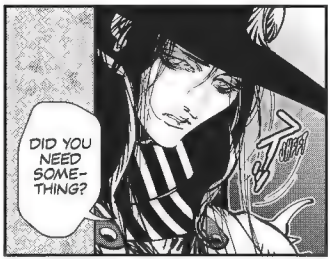
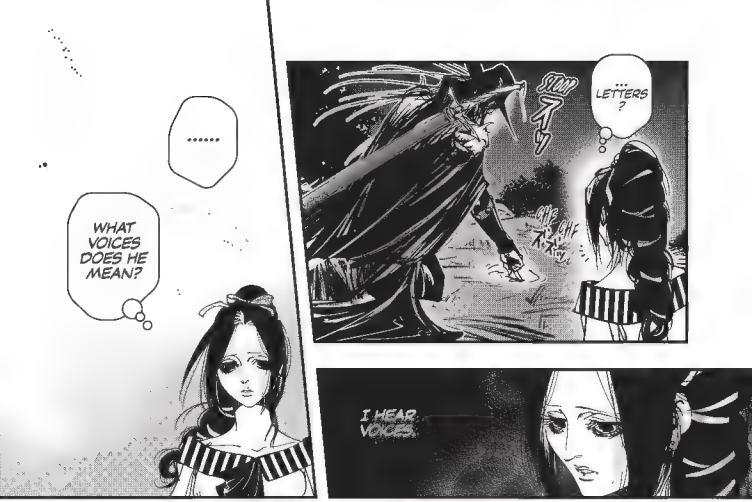

DID YOU NEED SOME-THING?
ZUSH

??

BUT YOU CAN LEARN SOMETHING NEW.
YOU CAN'T REGAIN WHAT YOU'VE LOST...

!
WE MIGHT NOT HAVE MUCH TIME.
COME WITH ME.
SHF
SHF
SHF
SHF


.....
WHAT VOICES DOES HE MEAN?
STOP
...LETTERS?
I HEAR VOICES.

QUIET NIGHT...
WHAT BRINGS YOU UP HERE?

.....
WHERE DO YOU THINK THIS TOWN IS GOING?
TELL ME...
THEY JUST DRIFT FROM ONE END OF THE WORLD TO THE OTHER.
THEY HAVE NO PURPOSE.
AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO LEAVE TOWNS.
TRUE... BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ENTER VILLAGES.
BUT THE HUMANS AND NOBILITY ON THE SURFACE ...
...HAVE NO PURPOSE, EITHER.
MAYBE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS THAT WAY.
DOESN'T THAT STRIKE YOU AS UN-NATURAL ?
THIS PLACE FITS INTO NEITHER OF THOSE CATEGORIES.
MY CONTRACT HERE LASTS ONE YEAR...
BUT I'LL PROBABLY LEAVE BEFORE THEN.

MAYBE YOU'RE JUST NOT SUITED TO THIS PLACE.
DO YOU ENJOY TRAVELLING?
I IMAGINE LOSING THEIR DOCTOR WOULD BE A PROBLEM.
NO... THEY WOULD JUST FIND ANOTHER ONE.
YOU MIGHT SAY, I BECAME A DOCTOR BECAUSE I LIKE TRAVELLING.
I'VE MET A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
THE FRONTIER DOES HAVE A SENSE OF PURPOSE.
WHATEVER THE NATURE OF THE WORLD ITSELF, THEY ALL LIVE HEARTILY OUT HERE.
I'LL BET EVEN THE SURVIVING NOBILITY DOES TOO—
I WANT TO TRY TO HELP THEM ALL.

YOU'RE A DHAMPIR, RIGHT?
HAVE YOU BEEN TRAVELLING LONG?
A BIT LONGER THAN YOU.
I'LL BE LIKE YOU, SOON ENOUGH.
I CAN PROBABLY REACH YOUR LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE.
I'LL EVEN LEARN TO HANDLE HORSES AND SWORDS, EVENTUALLY.

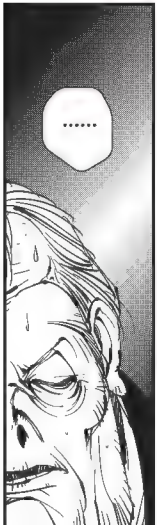
?
NEXT TIME COME HERE ALONE...

HMM
OMG
!
DO DHAMPIRS GIVE FOLKS NIGHTMARES JUST BY STANDING NEAR THEM?
I'M HERE TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.
AH, YES...
I HEARD YOU CAME BY A BIT AGO.
SORRY, I WAS OUT...
...AT THE TIME.
HOW LONG'VE YOU BEEN THERE?
—6:00 MORN-ING, EH...?
YOU MUST BE WHAT SCARED ME TO DEATH...

YOU EVEN PUT THEM IN JAIL.
WHY'D YOU DO IT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
WHO TOLD YOU?

I UNDERSTAND YOU HAD THE KNIGHT FAMILY DETAINED.

MUST I ANSWER ?
ALL I REALLY NEED YOU TO DO IS KILL THE VAMPIRE...


.....

WHAT DID THE MAN WHO BOARDED THIS TOWN 200 YEARS AGO SAY TO YOU?

AND WHAT IF SOMEONE MANUFAC-TURED THE SAID VAMPIRE?
WHAT?

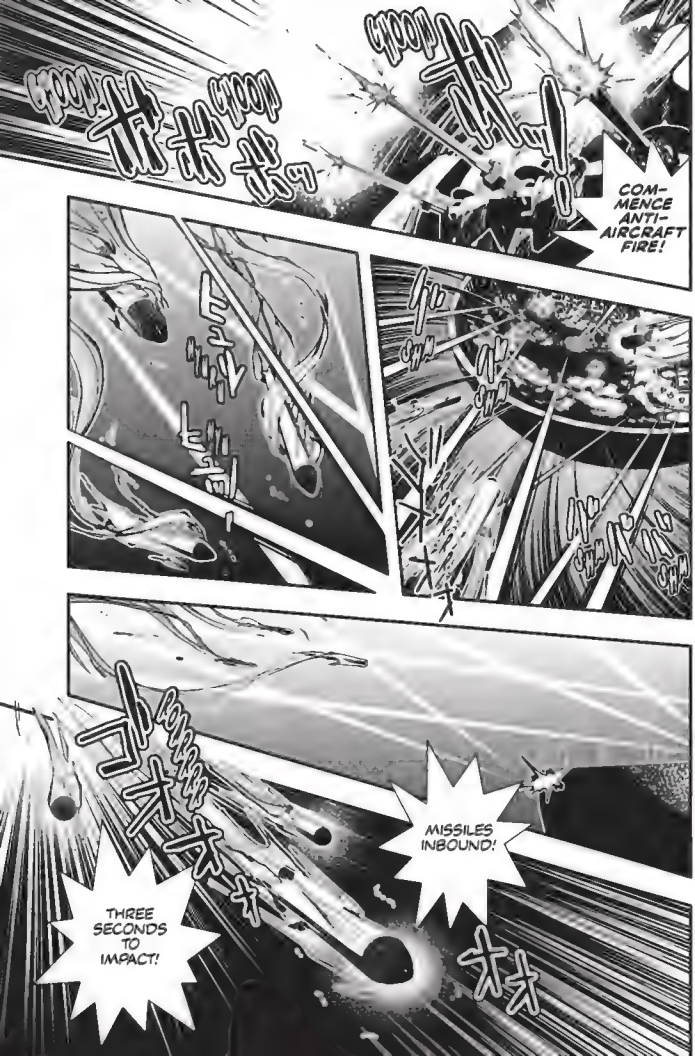
WHAT DID IT INVOLVE ?
.....
ONLY WHAT I ALREADY TOLD YOU...
THE MAN WHO VISITED 200 YEARS AGO GAVE YOU SOME INFORMATION.
I CAN GUESS WHAT—BUT I WON'T SAY IT.
.....
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER—THEY WERE CREATED.
SOMEBODY ENGINEERED THEM.
TWO HUNDRED YEARS PASSED, AND SUDDENLY VAMPIRES STARTED RUNNING RAMPANT.
THESE VAMPIRES WEREN'T BITTEN BY OTHER VAMPIRES.
AND YET, THERE'S NO APPARENT CAUSE.

HE REVEALED YOU THE TECHNIQUE, AND YOU TAUGHT IT TO THE KNIGHTS.
.....
OUR CURRENT SITUATION IS IDEAL,
AND IT'S THE DUTY OF THE MAYOR TO ALWAYS PROTECT THE PEOPLE.
THE TOWN HAS TO MAINTAIN ETERNAL PEACE.
IDEALS AND PEACE, EH?
ISN'T THAT SUPPOSED TO BE FRONTIER IDEALISM EMBODIED?
REALIZING IDEALS REQUIRES CERTAIN MEASURES AND SACRIFICES.

THEY TEND TO BE BLOODY.
WHAT DID YOU COMMIS-SION THE KNIGHTS TO DO?
TELL ME.
WHAT WAS THE TASK YOU GAVE THEM?
WHAT DID THEY DIS-COVER?
TH-
THEY...

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THIS IS NAVIGATIONAL CONTROL.
THERE'S AN AIRBORNE OBJECT APPROACHING FROM A POINT 60KM NORTH-NORTHWEST OF HERE.
ALRIGHT, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
JUST IN CASE, ENGAGE OUR DEF--
IT'S SPEED IS 90KPH.
IT APPEARS TO BE, ABOUT THE SAME SIZE OF OUR TOWN.
WE'RE TRYING TO HAIL THEM, BUT THERE'S NO RESPONSE.
THE AIRBORNE OBJECT HAS LAUNCHED MISSILES!
THREE TOTAL.
TWENTY SECONDS TO IMPACT--
PUT UP THE BARRIER!
IT'S STILL BEING REPAIRED FROM THE MAGNETIC STORM, SIR!

WHERE'S THE BARRIER PROJECTOR?
ENERGY OUTPUT REGULATION ROOM!
PREPARE TO FIRE INTER-CEPTOR MISSILES AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT CANNONS!
HOW'S THAT BARRIER?!
NOT GOOD!
FIRE SEVERED A CABLE...!
WE CAN'T TURN OFF THE OUTPUT.
DON'T GO NEAR IT! THAT'S 100,000 VOLTS!
CONTACT THE CONTROL ROOM.
C-CON-TROL ROOM!
I'LL CONDUCT THE CURRENT WHEN THEY NEED THE BARRIER.


COM-
MENCE
ANTI-
AIRCRAFT
FIRE!
MISSILES
INBOUND!
THREE
SECONDS
TO
IMPACT!

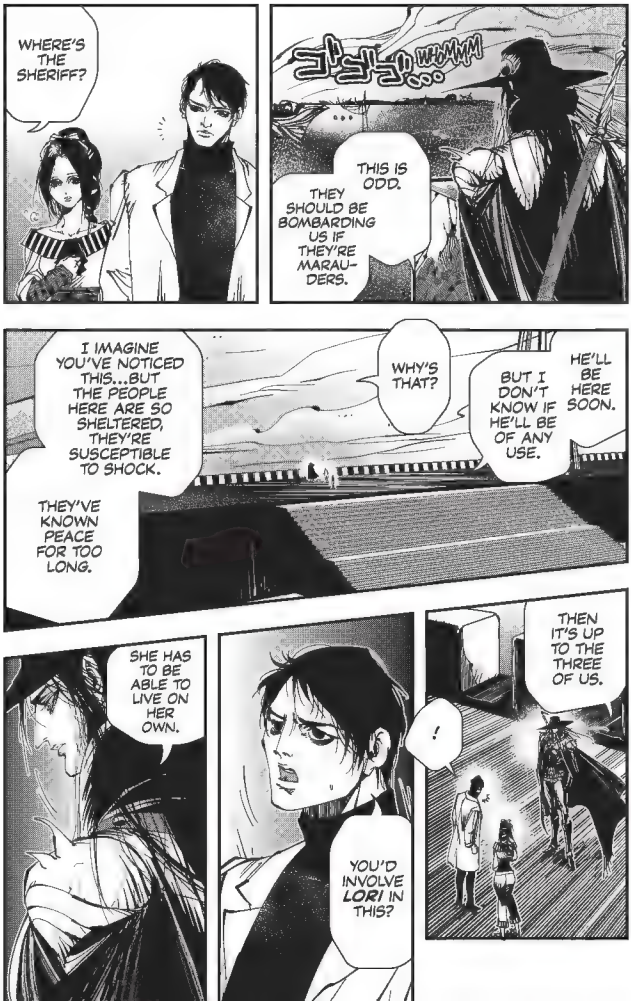
YANK
TWO SEC-ONDS!
GRAB
ONE SEC-OND!

GLIMMM
BOOM!
BOOM!

THE MISSILES WERE NEUTRAL-IZED!
THE AIRBORNE OBJECT IS APPROACH-ING!

RANGE, 1000!
—900!
OH MAN, WE'RE GONNA COLLIDE ...
—700 ....!
ZHHHHM
GHOOH

WHOMMMM
ズズ…
MMMM


WHERE'S THE SHERIFF?
THIS IS ODD. THEY SHOULD BE BOMBARDING US IF THEY'RE MARAUDERS.
WHMMM
I IMAGINE YOU'VE NOTICED THIS...BUT THE PEOPLE HERE ARE SO SHELTERED, THEY'RE SUSCEPTIBLE TO SHOCK.
THEY'VE KNOWN PEACE FOR TOO LONG.
WHY'S THAT?
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF HE'LL BE OF ANY USE.
HE'LL BE HERE SOON.
SHE HAS TO BE ABLE TO LIVE ON HER OWN.
YOU'D INVOLVE LORI IN THIS?
!
THEN IT'S UP TO THE THREE OF US.

NOO
...YES, THAT'S TRUE.
BUT...
TMP TMP
TMP TMP
...FROM THE AR-MORY.
THEN THE TWO OF YOU GO, GET SOME WEAPONS...
THEY MEAN TO BOARD US.
!
WHOMMM

CLONG!
SHANK
WAFT

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THEY'RE TOYING WITH US, EITHER...
NO-BODY'S COMIN' OUT?
WHAT NOW?
SUHH!
.....
だだっ
だだっ

GO!

I'LL SEARCH THE RESIDEN-TIAL AREA.

YOU GUYS FIND THE CONTROL ROOM.

THERE'S NOBODY HERE...?

YAN!
PETE!
ZHOM
ZHOM
!

GOD-DAMMIT!
ROHHH
HHH!

キュキュキュ
KRRRRRR
KRRRRRR
KRRRRRR
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

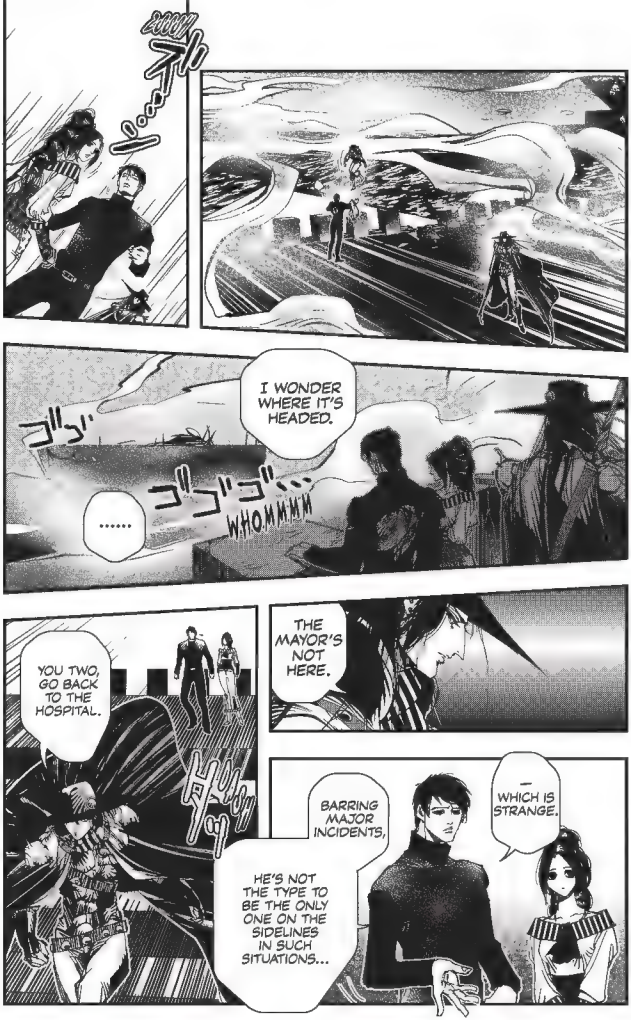
!!
GET DOWN!
AUGH!
BWOOM

FORGET IT— JUST RUN!
?!

HN!
WE NEED TO GET HIM TO THE NURSE.
HURRY!
LET ME TAKE A LOOK FIRST.
I-I DIDN'T TRY TO HELP THE DOCTOR.
I JUST FIRED THE GUN...
I'M ALRIGHT.
I CAN WALK ON MY OWN.
PLEASE, JUST LEAVE IT BE.
IT'S NOT A BAD BURN.

HAD YOU NOT FIRED, THIS MACHINE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU BOTH.
YOU COULD TELL THE DOCTOR'S BURN WASN'T SERIOUS.
YOU DID WELL.
YOU INTENTIONALLY GOT IN FRONT OF HIM WHEN YOU FIRED.
BUT...
THAT WASN'T AN EASY THING TO DO.
LET'S GO.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
TO THE PAST

WHAT WAS THAT MACHINE ?
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS PLACE, ANYWAY?
WHO OWNED THIS JOURNAL?
A CORPSE IN THE CONTROL ROOM WITH A BULLET HOLE IN ITS HEAD.
THAT MACHINE MUST HAVE BEEN THE LAST REMAINING DEFENSE SYSTEM.
THE CREW OF THIS SHIP ALL DIED OVER THREE YEARS AGO.
LETHARGY AND BOREDOM... TO KILL TIME, THEY KILLED THEMSELVES AND EACH OTHER...
FLIP
...WANDERS AROUND WITH NO PROGRAM RUNNING EXCEPT "PLUNDER"...
SO TO THIS DAY, THIS DESERTED SHIP...


ZOOOM
I WONDER WHERE IT'S HEADED.
ゴゴゴ
……
ゴゴゴ…
WHOMMM
YOU TWO, GO BACK TO THE HOSPITAL.
THE MAYOR'S NOT HERE.
BARRING MAJOR INCIDENTS,
HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO BE THE ONLY ONE ON THE SIDELINES IN SUCH SITUATIONS...
—WHICH IS STRANGE.

HE'S A VAM-PIRE!
BE CARE-FUL, D!
GRRRR

WHERE'S THIS TOWN GOING?
WHAT?
...
WHOOM
WHOOM

IS THIS THE RESULT OF THE KNIGHTS' EXPERIMENTS?
KRAK
IS THIS YOUR IDEAL PEACE?
STOP IT!
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED TO OBTAIN?
THE KNIGHTS' EXPERIMENTS WERE A SUCCESS.
IN THEIR LAB, ANYWAY.

BECAUSE MY RESULTS WERE DEFECTIVE.
I COULD TELL THAT...
...THAT THING HE INVENTED, WAS PERFECT.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED HIS FORMULA.
SO, YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO BOTCHED THE EXPERIMENT.
THEN YOU TOOK THE RESULT OF YOUR FAILURE AND HID IT SOMEWHERE.
WERE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ETERNAL TRAVELERS?
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO ONCE EVERYONE IN TOWN TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE?

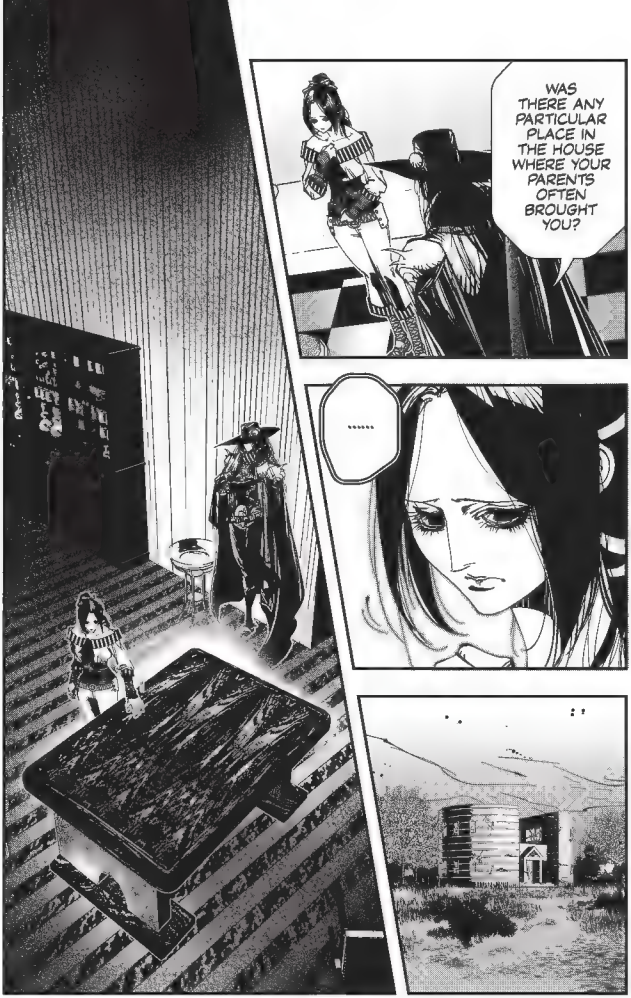
PHARMACEUTICAL ROOM
ONLY AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL PERMITTED
OH, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T ASK FIRST...
!

GYAHHH!
GRASSSH
!!
KICK
ACID
!!
BAM
BAM
BAM

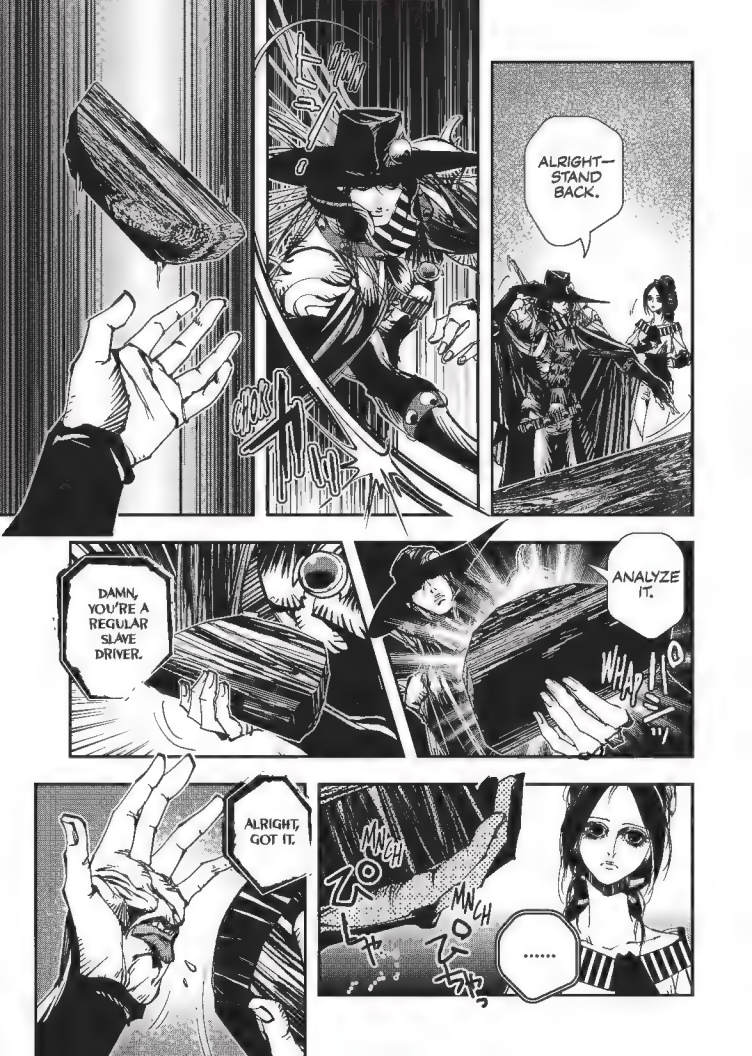
PLEASE, HELP ME!
HOW'RE YOU DOING?
!
JUST LEAVE HER TO ME.
GYAH!

...OR TWO— NO SWEAT.
I CAN HANDLE A MONS-TER...
NO PRO-BLEM.
WELL THAT'S CONVE-NIENT.
WHATTA YA SAY?
I JUST NEED YOU TO DO ME ONE FAVOR...
GRIN
WANNA LEARN HOW TO USE THIS POWER YOURSELF?
—I DO.

I WANT YOU TO GO TO YOUR OLD HOUSE.
WHY?
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE...
IF WE DON'T DESTROY THEM COM-PLETELY,
THERE'LL PROBABLY BE MORE DISPUTES, AND THE RESULTS ARE SURE TO BE DRASTIC.
YOUR PARENTS HID CHEMICAL AND MATHEMATICAL FORMULAS SOMEWHERE INSIDE BEFORE THEY FLED.

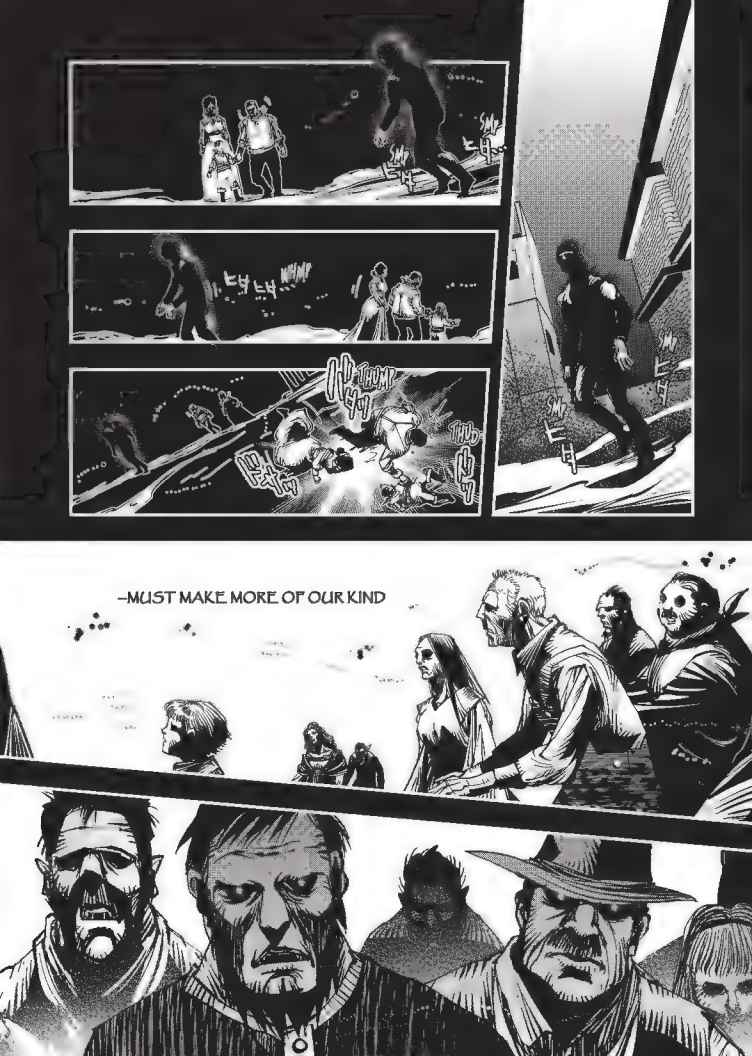

WAS THERE ANY PARTICULAR PLACE IN THE HOUSE WHERE YOUR PARENTS OFTEN BROUGHT YOU?
.....

MY FATHER ...
...WAS ALWAYS TAPPING ON THIS DESK WITH HIS FINGERS.
WELL?
BUT IT'S STRANGELY DULL IN THIS ONE SPOT.
THAT'S DUE TO THE COMPOSITION, NOT THE THICKNESS.
IS THE COMPO-SITION THE SAME?
NO.
HMM.
THE SURFACE'S BEEN TREATED WITH SOMETHING TO BRING OUT THE SHINE.


ALRIGHT— STAND BACK.
CRACK
ANALYZE IT.
WHAP-!!
DAMN, YOU'RE A REGULAR SLAVE DRIVER.
ALRIGHT, GOT IT.
MWCH
MWCH
.....

THE ATOMIC ARRANGEMENT OF EACH ELEMENT FORMS A LETTER OR NUMBER IN THE FORMULA.
THAT'S ONE CLEVER HIDING SPOT.
IF ANY PART OF IT'S TOO DENSE OR TOO WEAK,
THE LETTER DISAP-PEARS.
THAT'S CLEVER, INDEED.
NOW—
SLING
WHOOK

SORRY, BUT BUSINESS IS BUSINESS.
HOPE YOU UNDER-STAND.
I BET YOU NEVER EXPECTED ...
...I'D POSSESS THE GIRL YOU TRUST THE MOST.
WHEW, THAT'S ONE OBSTACLE DOWN.
SIGH


SMP
SMP
SMP

JOLT
SHUFF
–MORE
–MORE

NOW, TIME FOR THE CLOSING PRICE.
HOW MUCH WILL YOU PAY, BIG SHOT?
THIS'S THE FORMULA FOR BECOMING A NOBLE.
5000 DALAS.
OH, GET REAL.
THIS AIN'T SOME KID'S POCKET MONEY.
FINE...
500 MILLION DALAS.
NOT A DALA LESS.
500 BILLION DALAS.

THEY CAN WALK IN DAYLIGHT, THEY WON'T DROWN IN A POOL OF WATER, AND THEY DON'T NEED FOOD.
OH, LET'S NOT FORGET THE IMMORTALITY.
IT LETS PEOPLE DO EVERYTHING THEY'VE ALWAYS DONE, AND THEY JUST HAVE TO DRINK SOME BLOOD ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH.
AFTER ALL, THIS TREASURE CREATES SUPERMEN.
WHOMMM
I EVEN GOT RID OF THAT PAIN IN THE ASS HUNTER FOR YOU.
I'D SAY THAT ALONE MAKES THIS A BARGAIN.
WHAT?
WE'VE CONFIRMED THE TOWN'S DESTINATION!
THIRTY KILOMETERS AHEAD— A PLATEAU WITH RUINS ON IT.
LANDING PROCEDURES HAVE ALREADY INITIATED.

VERY WELL.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SETTING DOWN ON THE PLATEAU.
!
NOW THAT'S A SENSIBLE DECISION!
I'LL DELIVER THE MATHE-MATICAL PART WHEN I LEAVE TOWN.
HERE'S THE CHEMICAL FORMULA.
WHAT I DO, I DO FOR THIS TOWN.
I'LL PAY YOUR ASKING PRICE OF 500 BILLION DALAS.
WHOMMM

TAKE OVER FOR THE VAMPIRE HUNTER YOU KILLED,
AND DISPOSE OF THE FINAL CULPRIT IN THIS VAMPIRE UPROAR.
I WANT YOU TO DO ONE MORE THING, THEN.
GLANCE
!
THIS PLACE CREEPS ME OUT.
I BETTER MAKE THIS QUICK...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE TAKING THIS TOWN, OR WHY,
BUT IT ALL ENDS HERE.
SO YOU'RE THE FAILURE.
I JUST NEED TO DEAL WITH YOU, AND I'M GONE.
ONCE I GET PAID, THAT IS.
WHNK

GOTCHA!

Y-YOU...
...CAN'T SURVIVE A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART...
IMPOS-SIBLE... EVEN A DHAMPIR ...
TELL ME WHAT YOU DISCUSSED WITH THE MAYOR.
TOO BAD FOR YOU.

SAY WHAT ...?
AND THEN YOU KILLED THEM?
CLICK
...PARENTS, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU LEARNED SOMETHING FROM THE GIRL'S...
WAIT A MINUTE. I SAVED THIS GIRL.
BECAUSE I HAPPENED TO BE THERE.
RADIATION PASSES RIGHT THROUGH MOLECULAR INTANGIBILITY.
YOU COULDN'T BEAR TO LET THE DRAGONS EAT HER...
...SO YOU FIGURED YOU'D KILL HER INSIDE THE VEHICLE, BUT THAT WAS YOUR MISTAKE.

オオオオ…
WHAT'S THE MAYOR'S GOAL?
YOU'RE ONE BIG BALL OF SUSPICION.
YOU AMAZE ME.
TURNING THE WHOLE TOWN INTO NOBILITY—
INTO VAMPIRES?
ドドドド
TOO LATE.
YOU'RE TOO LATE, D.
THIS TOWN'S DONE FOR.
THEY'VE BEEN INFECTED BY THE MAYOR'S BOTCHED EXPERIMENT.
NO, MAYBE THIS IS THE OUTCOME THE MAYOR WANTED.
TURNING HUMANS INTO FLAWLESS NOBILITY...
...IS FUNDAMENTALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
.....

WE'VE FINALLY... ARRIVED...

YES. THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN...
...HAVE WHAT IT TAKES...
...TO JOIN US...
TWITCH
DID YOU BRING THE TOWN HERE?
THIS PLACE... IS WHERE FAILURES GATHER.
NOT ALIVE, BUT NOT DYING...
FOREVER... CURSED TO LIVE WITH A FUTURE WITHOUT DREAMS... THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE...
IN THE WORLD... FOR THE PEOPLE...
OF THIS TOWN ...

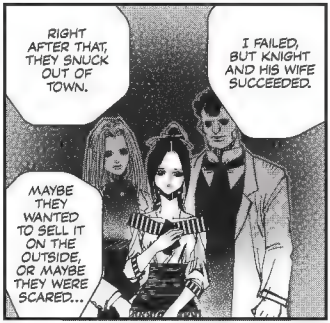
WHAT A FITTING... FATE...
.....

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BECOME A NEW, PERFECT HUMANITY...
WE'D SING THE JOYS OF ETERNAL LIFE, AWAY FROM THE FILTH OF THE WORLD...
WITH THE KINDNESS OF HUMANITY AND THE IMMORTALITY OF THE NOBILITY.

HAS THE BACKUP CIRCUIT BEEN CHECKED YET?
INSPECT THOSE WEAPONS!
CAN WE CONTACT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE?
MAKE SURE ALL CITIZENS STAY INDOORS ...

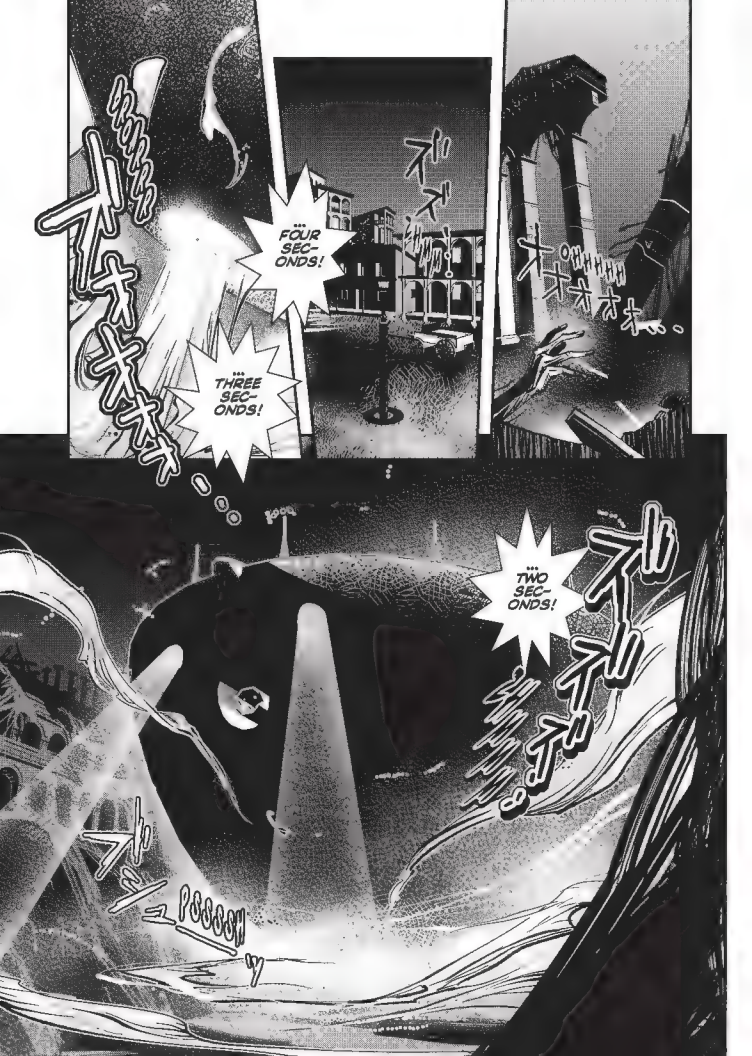
THEY WERE FAILURES.

THE VAMPIRE WHO ATTACKED YOUR DAUGHTER WAS ONE OF YOUR CREATIONS, THEN.


I FAILED, BUT KNIGHT AND HIS WIFE SUCCEEDED.
RIGHT AFTER THAT, THEY SNUCK OUT OF TOWN.
MAYBE THEY WANTED TO SELL IT ON THE OUTSIDE, OR MAYBE THEY WERE SCARED...

I'LL DISPOSE OF THEM, IF YOU PAY ME TO.
HALF THE TOWN ARE ALREADY VAMPIRES.
—ONE SANK HIS FANGS INTO MY DAUGHTER,
AND THE OTHER SPREAD HIS GERMS ALL OVER TOWN.
I MADE TWO, AND THEY BOTH ESCAPED.
YES.
I GUESS IT'S ALL OVER...
NO.
NOT YET.
HUH?
...MY DREAM WILL LIVE ON.
AS LONG AS DECENT PEOPLE STILL LIVE IN THIS TOWN...

KGH!
WE'RE LANDING!
WHOMMM
SEVEN SECONDS....!
AHA_ HE'S A CYBORG_
NO WONDER HE'S SO FIT FOR 700.


FOUR SECONDS!
THREE SECONDS!
TWO SECONDS!
Poooof

ZERO!
OSSSSSSH
OSSSSH
UMBLE

ENGINE NOZZLES WERE DAMAGED!
CRACKING IN THE CONVEC-TION PIPES!
VVVEEN
EMER-GENCY WITH-DRAWAL!
INPUT A NEW COURSE!
HOW LONG UNTIL WE CAN GET BACK IN THE AIR?!
AT LEAST FOUR HOURS ...
DO IT IN TWO!
YES SIR!
HEY, LOOK AT THE EXTERIOR CAMERAS ...

DON'T LET THEM GET INSIDE!

PUMP SOME CURRENT THROUGH THE OUTER WALLS AND THE BARRIER!

WE JUST HAVE TO HOLD OUT FOR TWO HOURS.

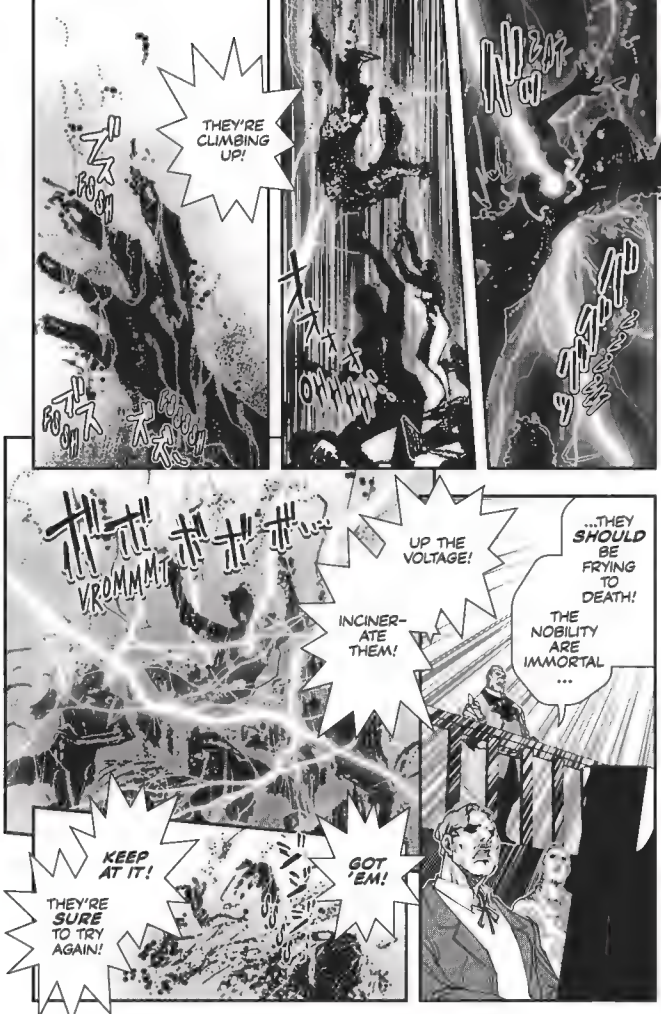
THE DOOR'S MADE OF DIUM STEEL.

NOT EVEN A NOBLE COULD BREAK IT.

THEY'RE AT THE BOTTOM ENTRANCE HATCH...!

THEY'LL SMASH THROUGH IT AT THIS RATE!

CREE-EEEP


THEY'RE CLIMBING UP!
VROMMMT
UP THE VOLTAGE!
INCINER-ATE THEM!
...THEY SHOULD BE FRYING TO DEATH!
THE NOBILITY ARE IMMORTAL ...
KEEP AT IT!
THEY'RE SURE TO TRY AGAIN!
GOT 'EM!

オオオオ…

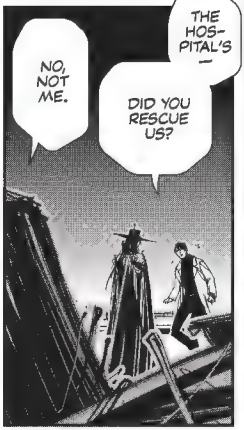
HEY THERE.
.....
I'VE GOT THE MATH EQUATION --
THE MAYOR HAS THE CHEMICAL FORMULA.

GRIN
IT'S TIME WE WENT AT IT.
SO HEY—
WHOOSH
SWING!

HEHEH, THANKS.
YOU NOTICED I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.

I KNOW.
SHE FOUGHT TO KEEP ME OUT RIGHT UNTIL THE END.
THERE'S SOMETHING I SHOULD MENTION...
I HAD TO FORCE...
...MY WAY INTO THE GIRL'S BODY...
HEH HEH...
AND IN TURN, SHE'LL PROBABLY ALWAYS...
...BE THANKFUL THAT YOU RESCUED HER.

!
HE'S DEAD ...?
HE DID.


THE HOS-PITAL'S —
NO, NOT ME.
DID YOU RESCUE US?

HNN...
ぴくっ

NOW, TRUE DEATH HAS COME CALLING.
THIS TOWN DIED LONG AGO.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE TOWN?
WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...

NO NEED TO WORRY.
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU TWO GET AWAY SAFELY, THOUGH.

I GIVE UP...

.....

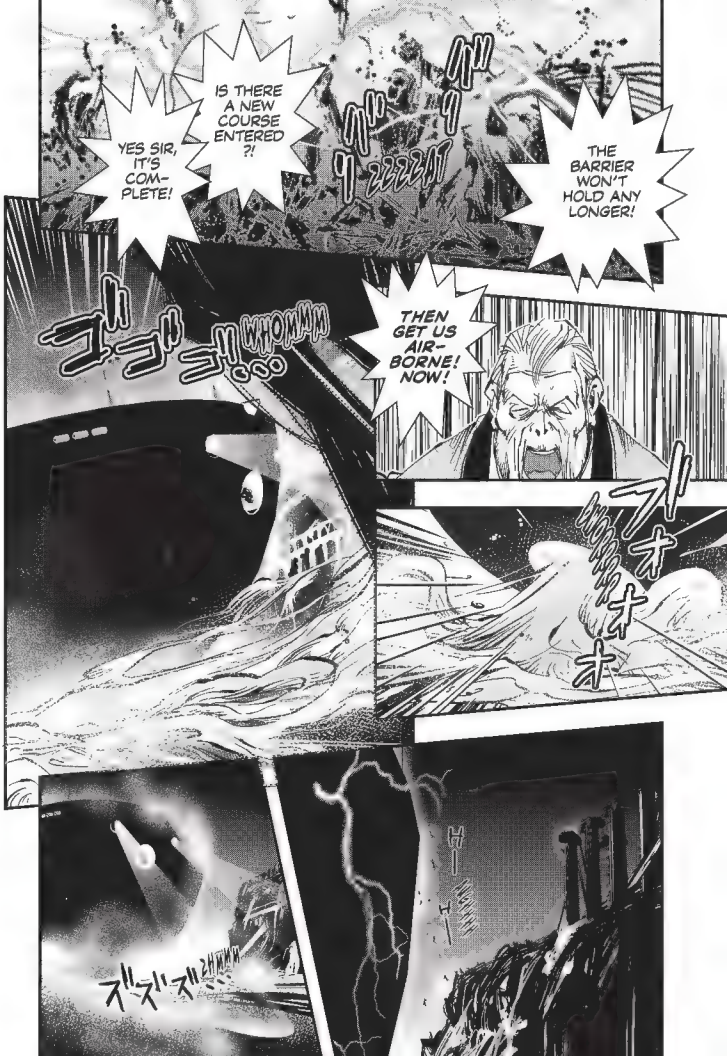
I'M JUST NO MATCH FOR YOU.
NOW I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY SHE FEELS THAT WAY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SHFF

ARE THEY DOING WELL?

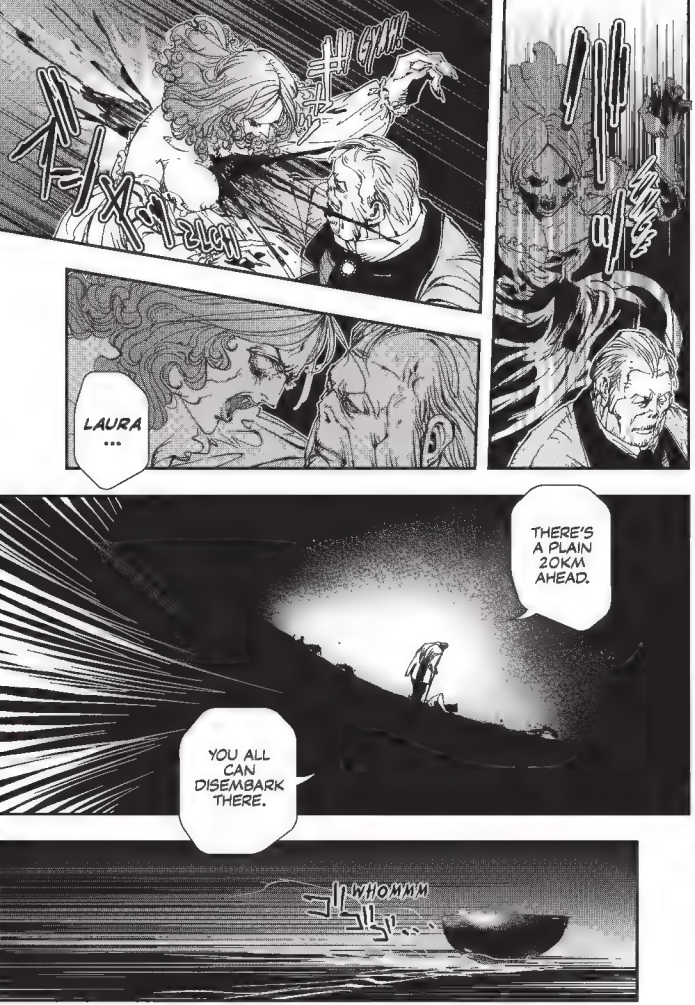
VERY WELL.
HE HELPS HIS SISTER OUT LIKE HE'S ALREADY A GROWN MAN.

HOW LONG WERE YOU IN THAT VILLAGE?
HALF A YEAR.
NOT LONG.
I WANTED TO STAY AND HELP PERMA-NENTLY...
THE FARM HAS EXPANDED.
BUT IT SEEMS HER HEART'S ALREADY SET ON SOMEONE.
THANK YOU.
THEY WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE YOU.


YES SIR, IT'S COM-PLETE!
IS THERE A NEW COURSE ENTERED ?!
THE BARRIER WON'T HOLD ANY LONGER!
THEN GET US AIR-BORNE! NOW!
WHOMMM

CHOP
THUD

WHOMMM
MY JOURNEY'S JUST BEGINNING.
ONCE THE DAWN COMES, THE VAMPIRES WILL PERISH.
THE REMAINING CITIZENS AND I SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP THE TOWN GOING SOMEHOW.
THIS IS A DEAD TOWN.
WHERE WILL YOU GO, AND FOR WHAT?


LAURA ...
THERE'S A PLAIN 20KM AHEAD.
YOU ALL CAN DISEMBARK THERE.
WHOMMM

–I HEARD THE WIND BLOW, AND THE BIRDS SING.

SHF

WHERE WILL YOU GO?

YOU SHOULD GO THERE TOGETHER.

THERE'S A TOWN ABOUT 2KM AHEAD.

clop clop

SHRFF

SHRFF

In a secluded village, an ageless beauty sleeps…

…also holds the key to the delicate balance in which mortals and vampires live in peace…

But when D is drawn to the town by recurring dreams…

…will the town stop at nothing to stop D's intrusion?

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

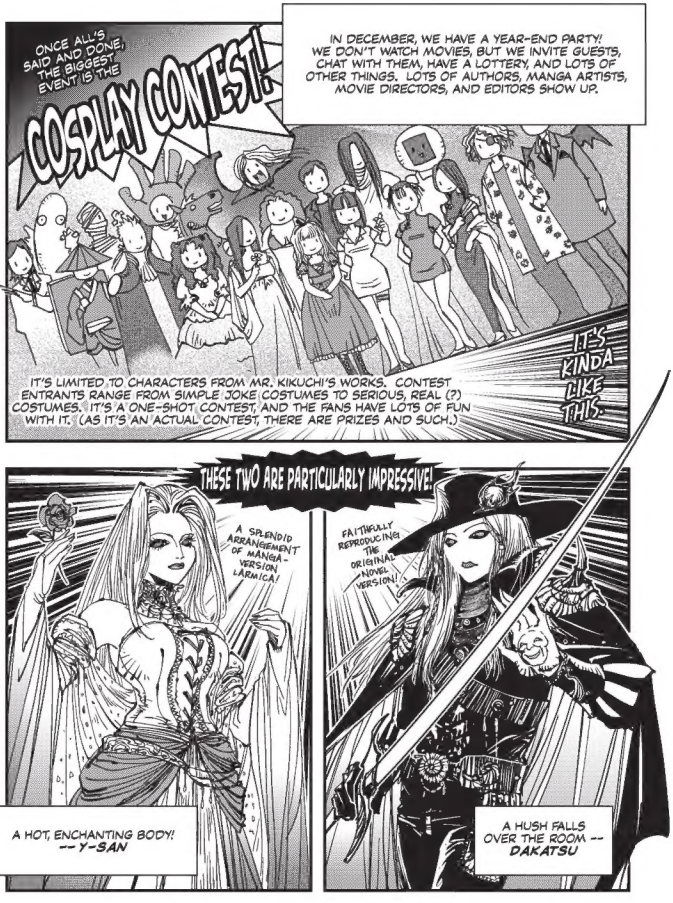
Vampire Hunter D

Volume 5

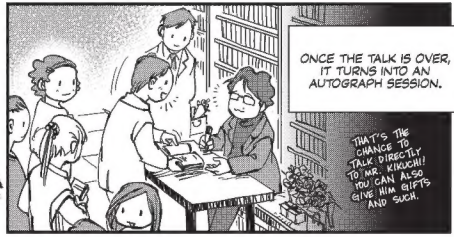
Available Now!

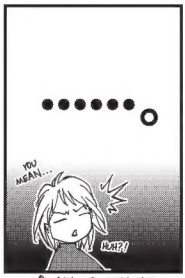
www.vampire-d.com

AFTERWORD 4
A LIVE TALK AT SHINJUKU'S LOFT PLUS ONE
I WORE THIS COSTUME IN 2008.
MEOW
KABUKICHO
MR. KIKUCHI DOES LIVE TALKS ABOUT FIVE TIMES A YEAR.
(IT HAPPENS AT LOFT PLUS ONE IN KABUKICHO, SHINJUKU. THEY RUN FROM 12AM TO ABOUT 4:30AM. ALL-NIGHTERS!)
MR. KIKUCHI
T-SAN, A FRIEND
I-SENSEI, AUTHOR AND LIVE TALK CONTRIBUTOR
LET'S SEE, TONIGHT...
COLA
MR. KIKUCHI SCREENS SOME OF HIS PRIZED MOVIE COLLECTION (ABOUT 3-5 FILMS, EDITED FOR LENGTH)
THESE THREE OFFER QUIPS DURING THE MOVIES, THEN DISCUSS THEM.
THE AUDIENCE SITS AT TABLES AND ENJOYS ALL THIS OVER REFRESHMENTS.
WHAT'S A LIVE TALK?!
AND WE OFFER OUR OWN QUIPS AND TALK DIRECTLY WITH THEM. IT'S ALL QUITE LIVELY.
SENSEI, THAT'S AGUALLY XXXX.
OH? IS IT, REALLY?
AHA-HE'S FORGOTTEN AGAIN.
T-YA!
THE SHE XXXX WITH HER XXXX...
KEEP GOIN'!
YEAH!
WE ENJOY THE CONVERSATION OF OUR HOSTS (AS WE IGNORE THE MOVIE)
WE ROAR WITH LAUGHTER AT HORROR MOVIES...
HA HA HA
THERE'S ALSO PLENTY OF OFF-THE-RECORD STUFF YOU'LL ONLY HEAR HERE, Q AND A, AND NEWLY PUBLISHED PROMOTIONAL GIVEAWAYS!

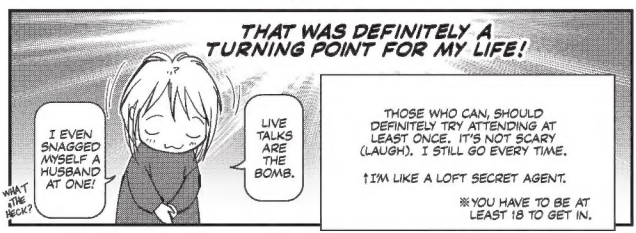

ONCE ALL'S SAID AND DONE, THE BIGGEST EVENT IS THE
COSPLAY CONTEST!
IN DECEMBER, WE HAVE A YEAR-END PARTY! WE DON'T WATCH MOVIES, BUT WE INVITE GUESTS, CHAT WITH THEM, HAVE A LOTTERY, AND LOTS OF OTHER THINGS. LOTS OF AUTHORS, MANGA ARTISTS, MOVIE DIRECTORS, AND EDITORS SHOW UP.
IT'S KINDA LIKE THIS.
IT'S LIMITED TO CHARACTERS FROM MR. KIKUCHI'S WORKS. CONTEST ENTRANTS RANGE FROM SIMPLE JOKE COSTUMES TO SERIOUS, REAL (?) COSTUMES. IT'S A ONE-SHOT CONTEST, AND THE FANS HAVE LOTS OF FUN WITH IT. (AS IT'S AN ACTUAL CONTEST, THERE ARE PRIZES AND SUCH.)
THESE TWO ARE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE!
A SPLENDID ARRANGEMENT OF MANGA-VERSION LARMICA!
FAITHFULLY REPRODUCING THE ORIGINAL NOVEL VERSION!
A HOT, ENCHANTING BODY! -- Y-SAN
A HUSH FALLS OVER THE ROOM -- DAKATSU
EVERY YEAR WE HAVE THIS BATTLE ROYALE OF CLOTHING. IT'S AMAZING, AND WORTH SEEING AT LEAST ONCE.

I WOULD ALWAYS HAND SELF-MADE ILLUSTRATED BUSINESS CARDS TO HIM AT SUCH TIMES...


ONCE THE TALK IS OVER, IT TURNS INTO AN AUTOGRAPH SESSION.
THAT'S THE CHANCE TO TALK DIRECTLY TO MR. KIMUCHI! YOU CAN ALSO GIVE HIM GIFTS AND SUCH.



↑MAIN JOB: DESIGNER


THAT WAS DEFINITELY A TURNING POINT FOR MY LIFE!
I EVEN SNAGGED MYSELF A HUSBAND AT ONE!
WHAT THE HECK?
LIVE TALKS ARE THE BOMB.
THOSE WHO CAN, SHOULD DEFINITELY TRY ATTENDING AT LEAST ONCE. IT'S NOT SCARY (LAUGH). I STILL GO EVERY TIME.
↑I'M LIKE A LOFT SECRET AGENT.
※YOU HAVE TO BE AT LEAST 18 TO GET IN.

MEOW!
SO HERE YOU HAVE VOLUME 4, WHICH I MANAGED TO SMOOTHLY COMPLETE. MY THANKS GO OUT TO ALL YOU READERS WHO PURCHASED IT, AND I'M GRATEFUL ONCE AGAIN FOR ALL THE HELP FROM THE DMP STAFFERS. HERE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE.
MEOW!

LIKE IT? BUY IT!

LOVAG